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**COMICS**

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**NOV**  
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# THE INFINITY GAUNTLET





I AM KNOWN AS THE  
**WATCHER.**

MY SWORN TASK  
IS TO OBSERVE  
AND CHRONICLE  
GREAT EVENTS  
WITHIN THIS  
SECTOR OF THE  
UNIVERSE.

MY CURSE IS  
TO ALWAYS  
WITNESS AND  
NEVER  
PARTICIPATE.

I MUST BE  
TRUE TO THIS  
DUTY, EVEN ON  
THE BRINK OF  
ARMAGEDDON.



A CONTINGENT OF COSMIC ENTITIES CHALLENGES THANOS'S MIGHT. SUCH A CONFLICT MAY WELL PROVE MORE THAN THIS FRAGILE REALITY CAN BEAR.

THANOS OF TITAN...WE CALL UPON YOU TO SURRENDER THE INFINITY GEMS.

HONOR THIS REQUEST OR FACE POWER BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

# ASTRAL CONFLAGRATION

I BELIEVE YOU WILL DISCOVER THE HORIZONS OF MY IMAGININGS FAR WIDER THAN YOU WOULD SUSPECT, LORD CHAOS.

YOU ADDRESS OMNIPOTENCE.

TREAD CAREFULLY.

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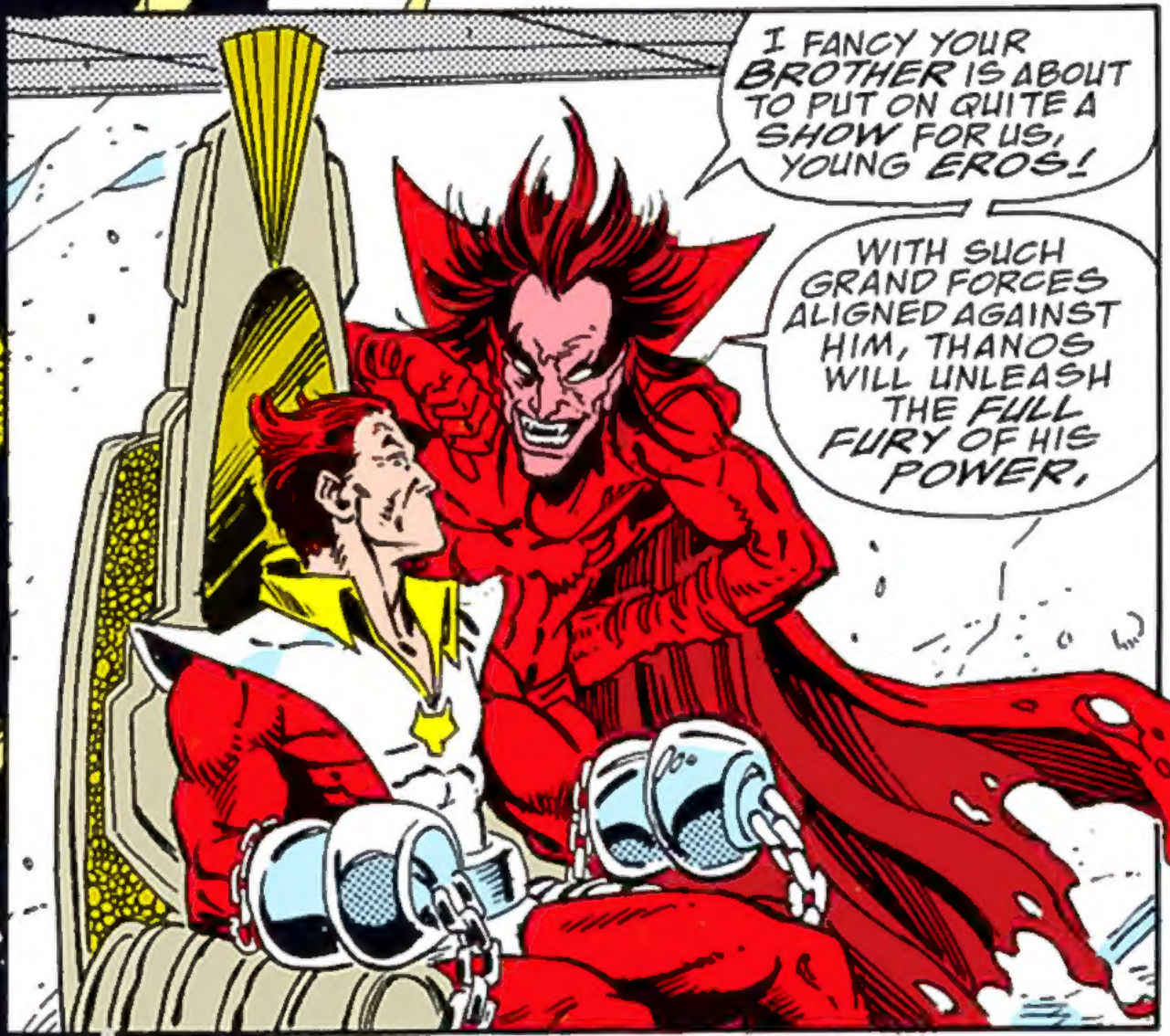
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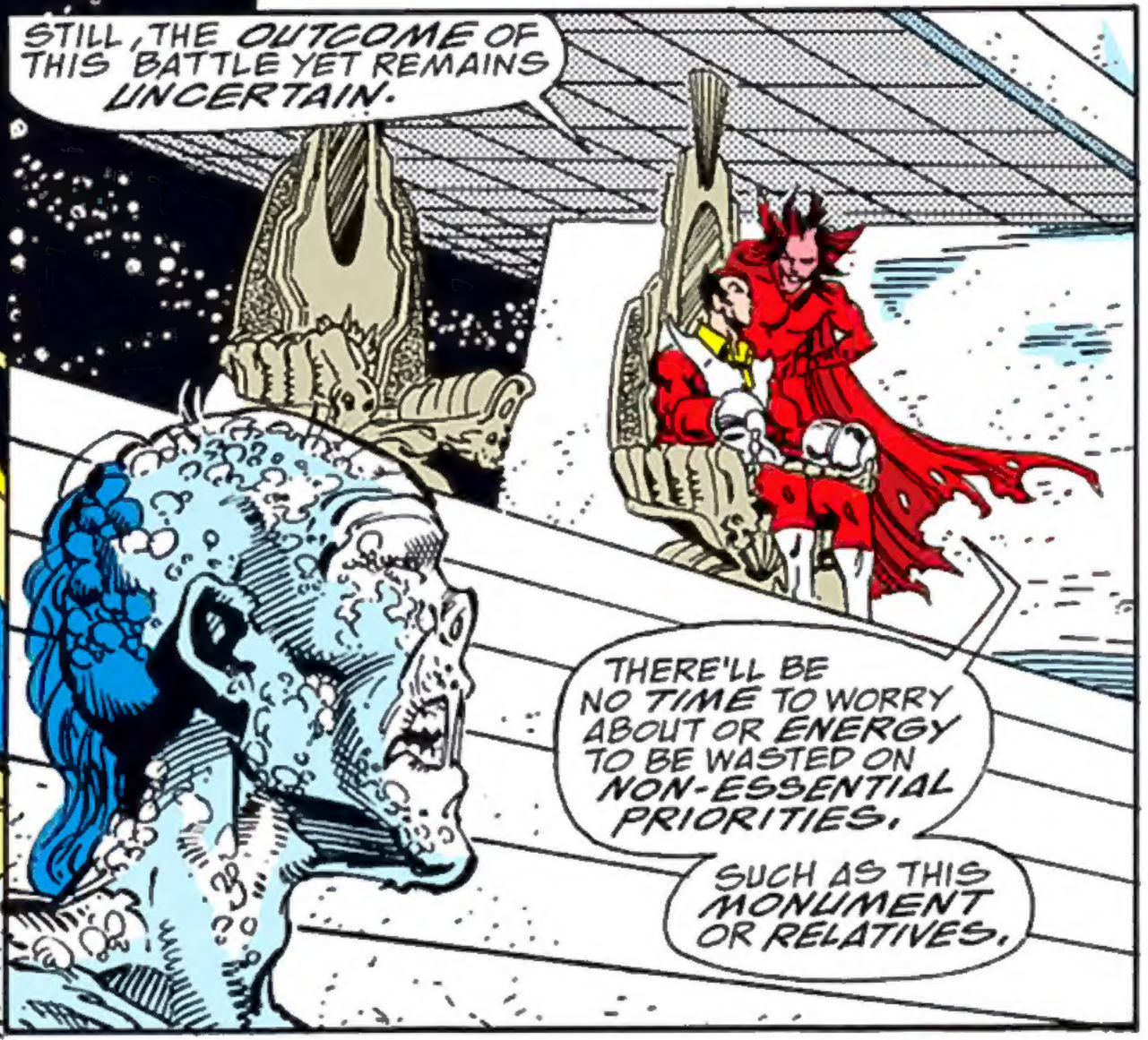
THAT WHICH YOU  
CHALLENGE IS BEYOND  
EVEN YOUR MYSTIC  
UNDERSTANDING.

BEGONE, FOOLISH  
GODLINGS, OR  
SUFFER MY CELESTIAL  
WRATH.



I FANCY YOUR  
BROTHER IS ABOUT  
TO PUT ON QUITE A  
SHOW FOR US,  
YOUNG EROS!

WITH SUCH  
GRAND FORCES  
ALIGNED AGAINST  
HIM, THANOS  
WILL UNLEASH  
THE FULL  
FURY OF HIS  
POWER.



STILL, THE OUTCOME OF  
THIS BATTLE YET REMAINS  
UNCERTAIN.

THERE'LL BE  
NO TIME TO WORRY  
ABOUT OR ENERGY  
TO BE WASTED ON  
NON-ESSENTIAL  
PRIORITIES.

SUCH AS THIS  
MONUMENT  
OR RELATIVES.



I DOUBT YOU'LL LAST  
MORE THAN A FEW  
MICRO-SECONDS  
INTO THE CONFLICT.

BUT IT  
SHOULD BE A  
QUICK  
DEATH.



OF COURSE, LORD  
THANOS HAS THE  
POWER TO REBUILD  
HIS LOVE MONU-  
MENT AFTER-  
WARDS.

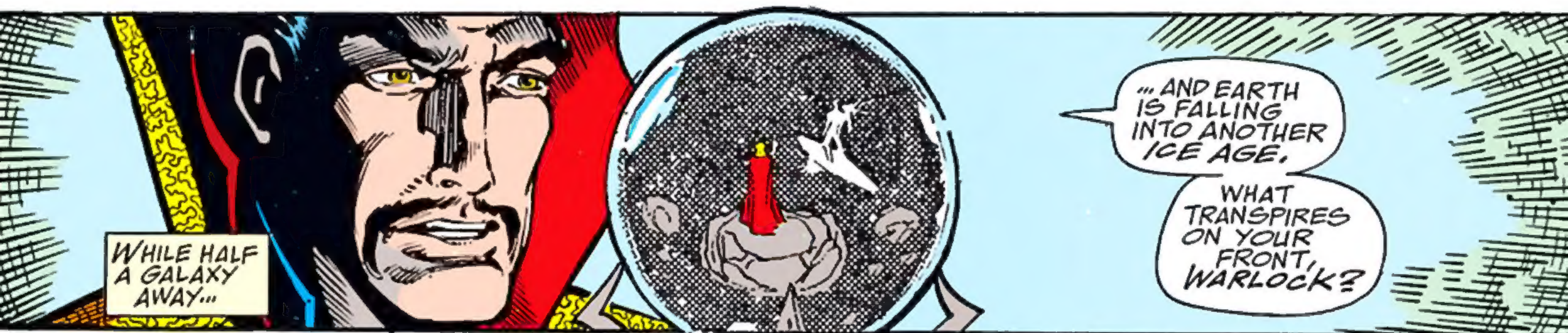
HE'LL MAKE  
IT AS GOOD  
AS NEW.



PERHAPS HE'LL DO  
THE SAME FOR  
YOU.

JUST LOOK AT  
THE MARVELOUS  
JOB HE DID ON  
NEBULA.

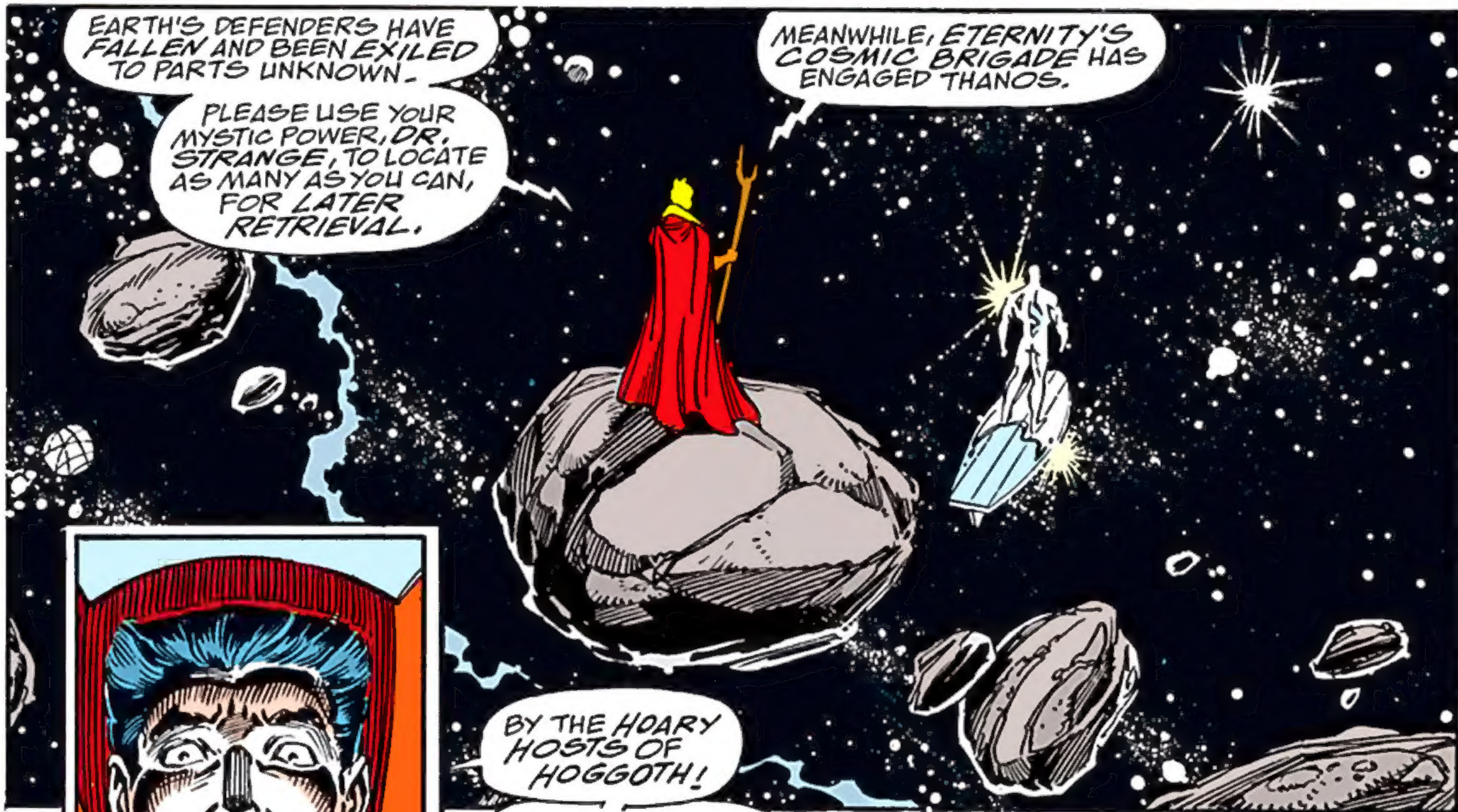




WHILE HALF  
A GALAXY  
AWAY...

...AND EARTH  
IS FALLING  
INTO ANOTHER  
ICE AGE.

WHAT  
TRANSPIRES  
ON YOUR  
FRONT,  
WARLOCK?



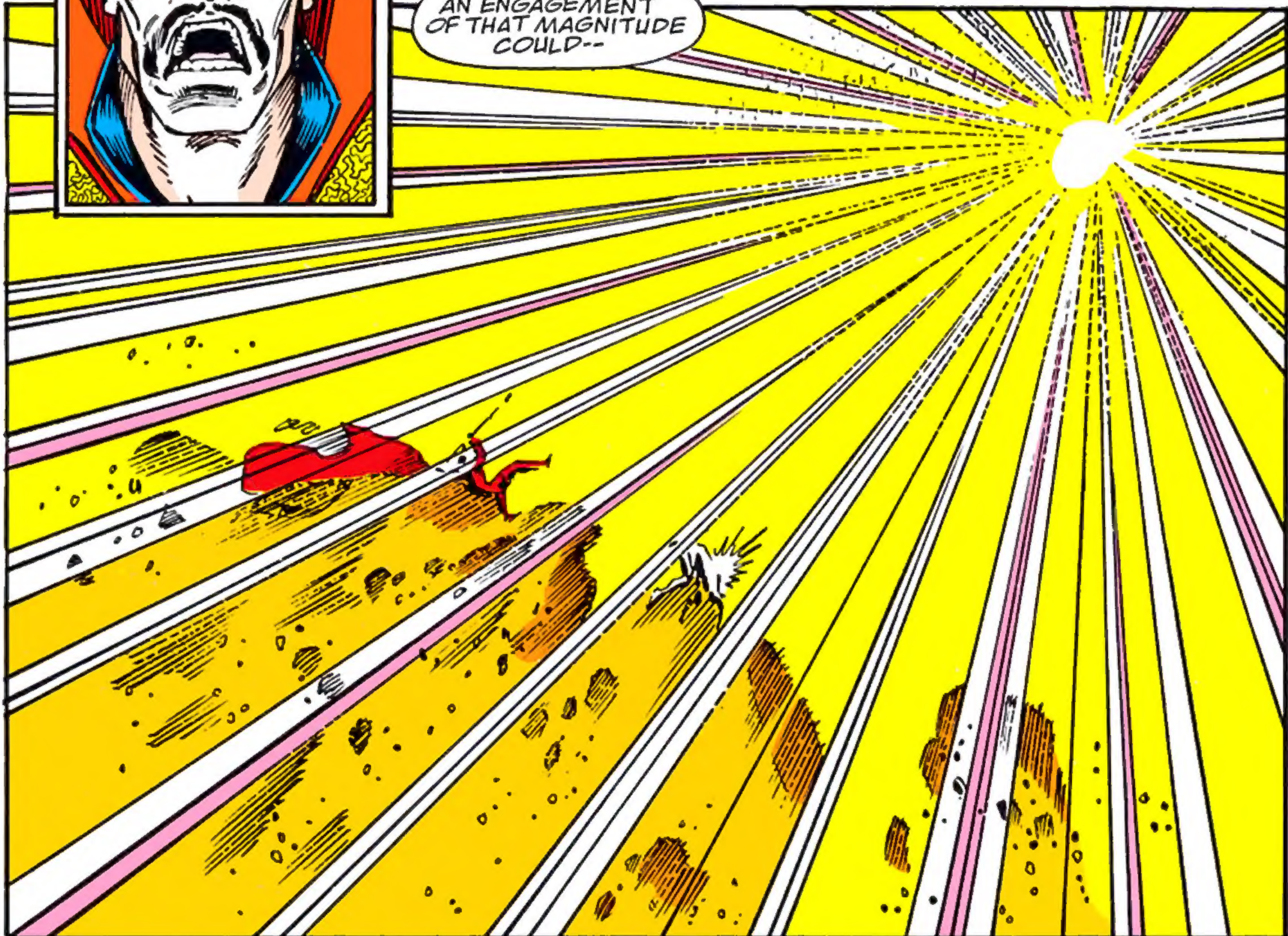
EARTH'S DEFENDERS HAVE  
FALLEN AND BEEN EXILED  
TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

PLEASE USE YOUR  
MYSTIC POWER, DR.  
STRANGE, TO LOCATE  
AS MANY AS YOU CAN,  
FOR LATER  
RETRIEVAL.

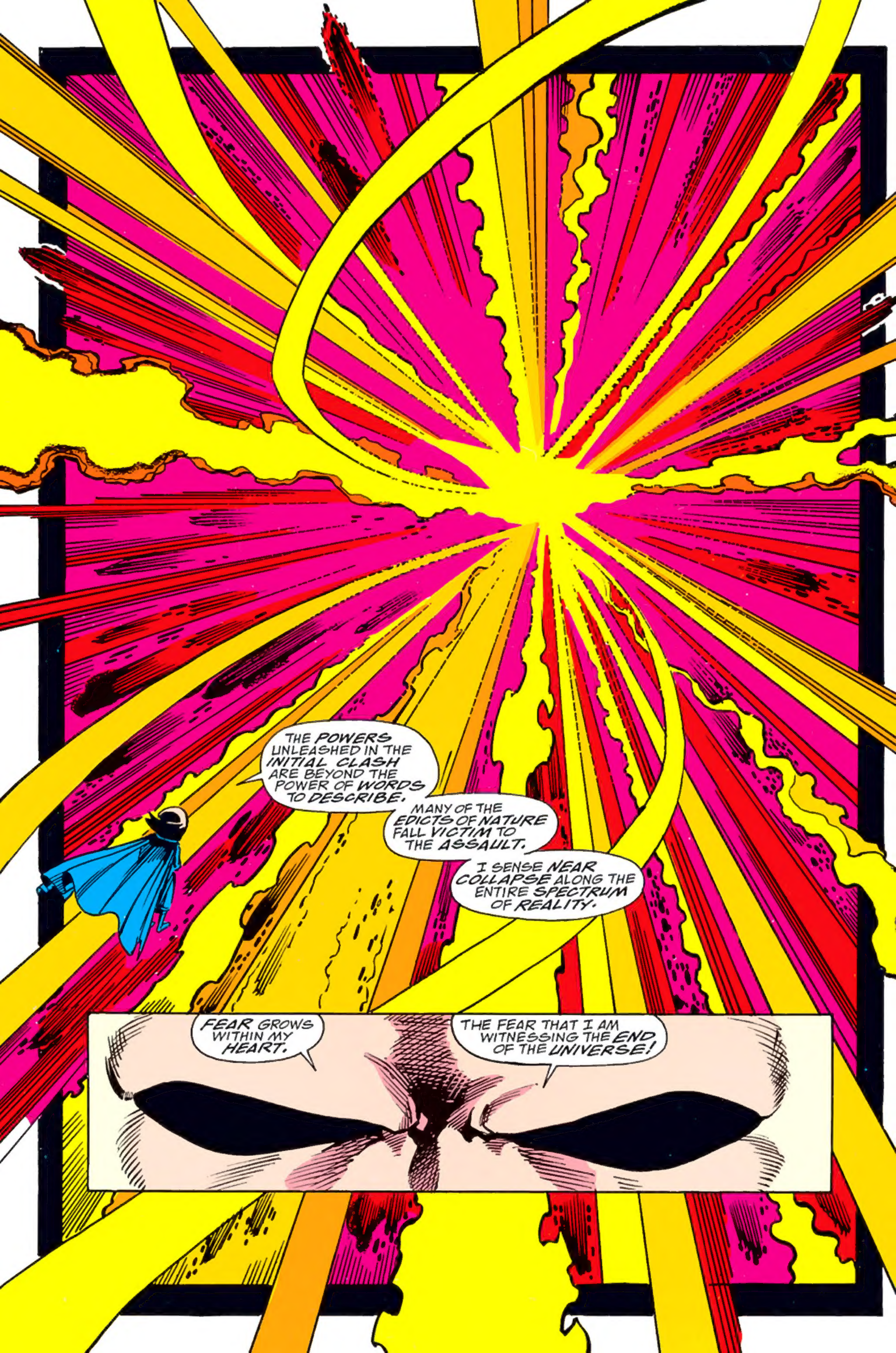
MEANWHILE, ETERNITY'S  
COSMIC BRIGADE HAS  
ENGAGED THANOS.

BY THE HOARY  
HOSTS OF  
HOGGOTH!

AN ENGAGEMENT  
OF THAT MAGNITUDE  
COULD--







THE POWERS  
UNLEASHED IN THE  
INITIAL CLASH  
ARE BEYOND THE  
POWER OF WORDS  
TO DESCRIBE.

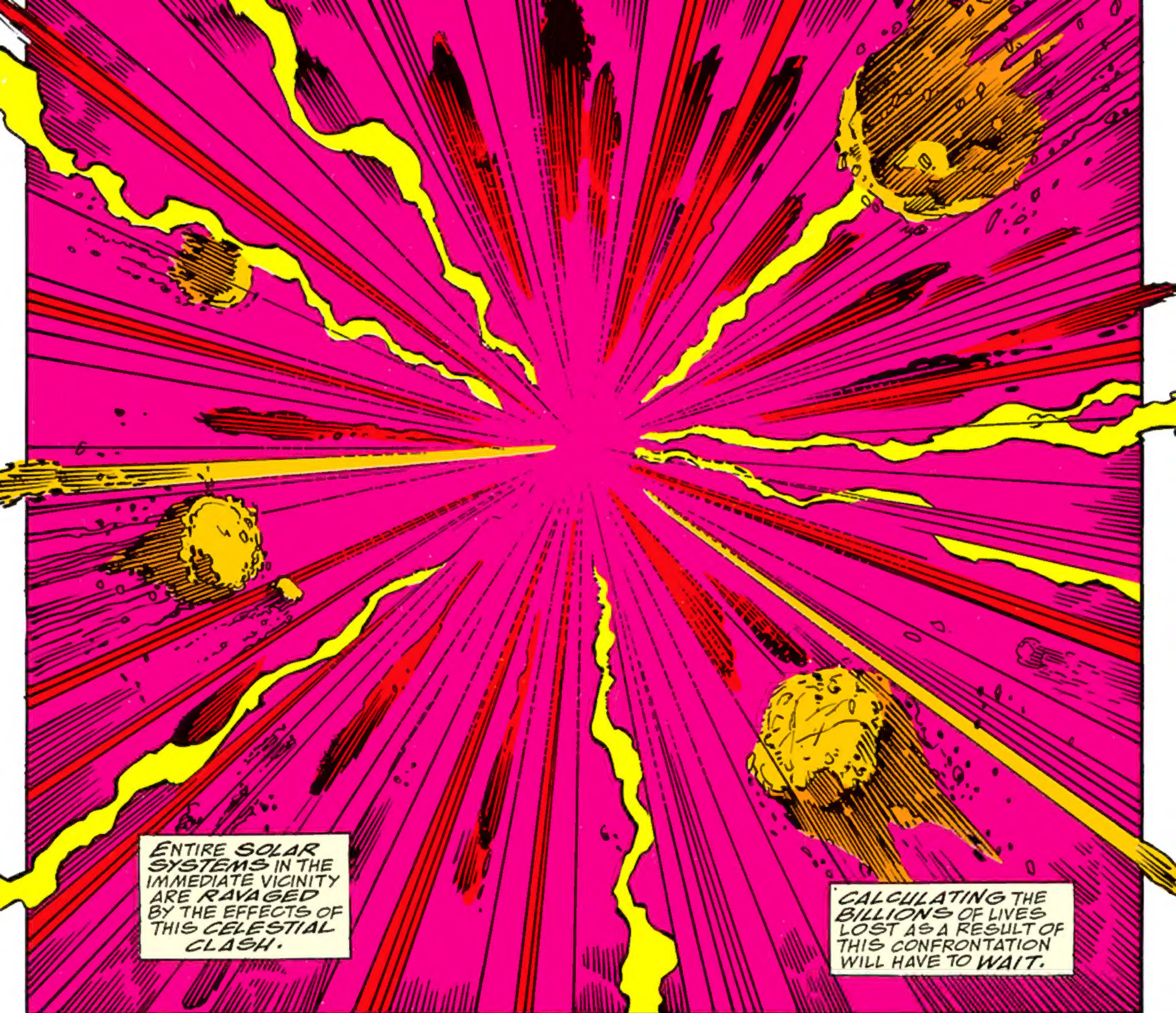
MANY OF THE  
EDICTS OF NATURE  
FALL VICTIM TO  
THE ASSAULT.

I SENSE NEAR  
COLLAPSE ALONG THE  
ENTIRE SPECTRUM  
OF REALITY.

FEAR GROWS  
WITHIN MY  
HEART.

THE FEAR THAT I AM  
WITNESSING THE END  
OF THE UNIVERSE!





ENTIRE SOLAR  
SYSTEMS IN THE  
IMMEDIATE VICINITY  
ARE RAVAGED  
BY THE EFFECTS OF  
THIS CELESTIAL  
CLASH.

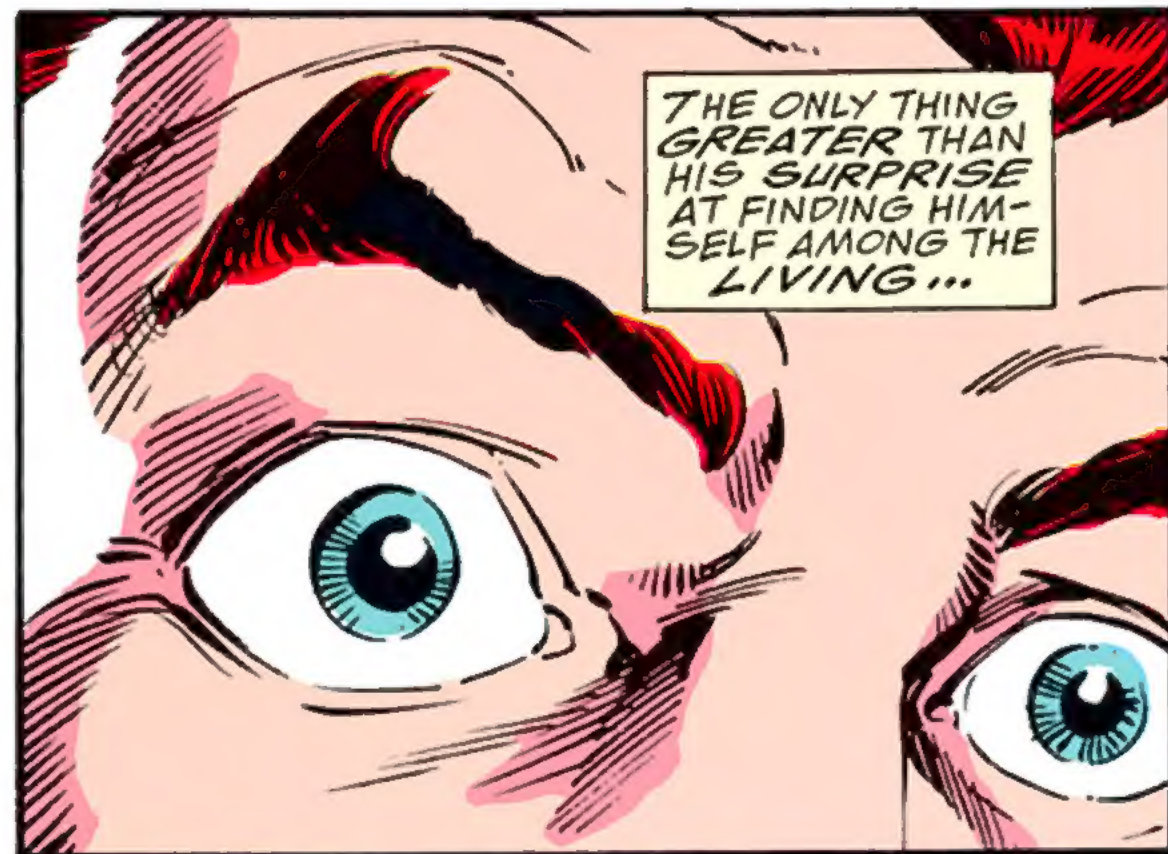
CALCULATING THE  
BILLIONS OF LIVES  
LOST AS A RESULT OF  
THIS CONFRONTATION  
WILL HAVE TO WAIT.



BUT EVEN IN THE  
MIDST OF SUCH  
DESTRUCTION, I AM  
AWESTRUCK  
BY MYSTERIES  
OF THE SOUL.

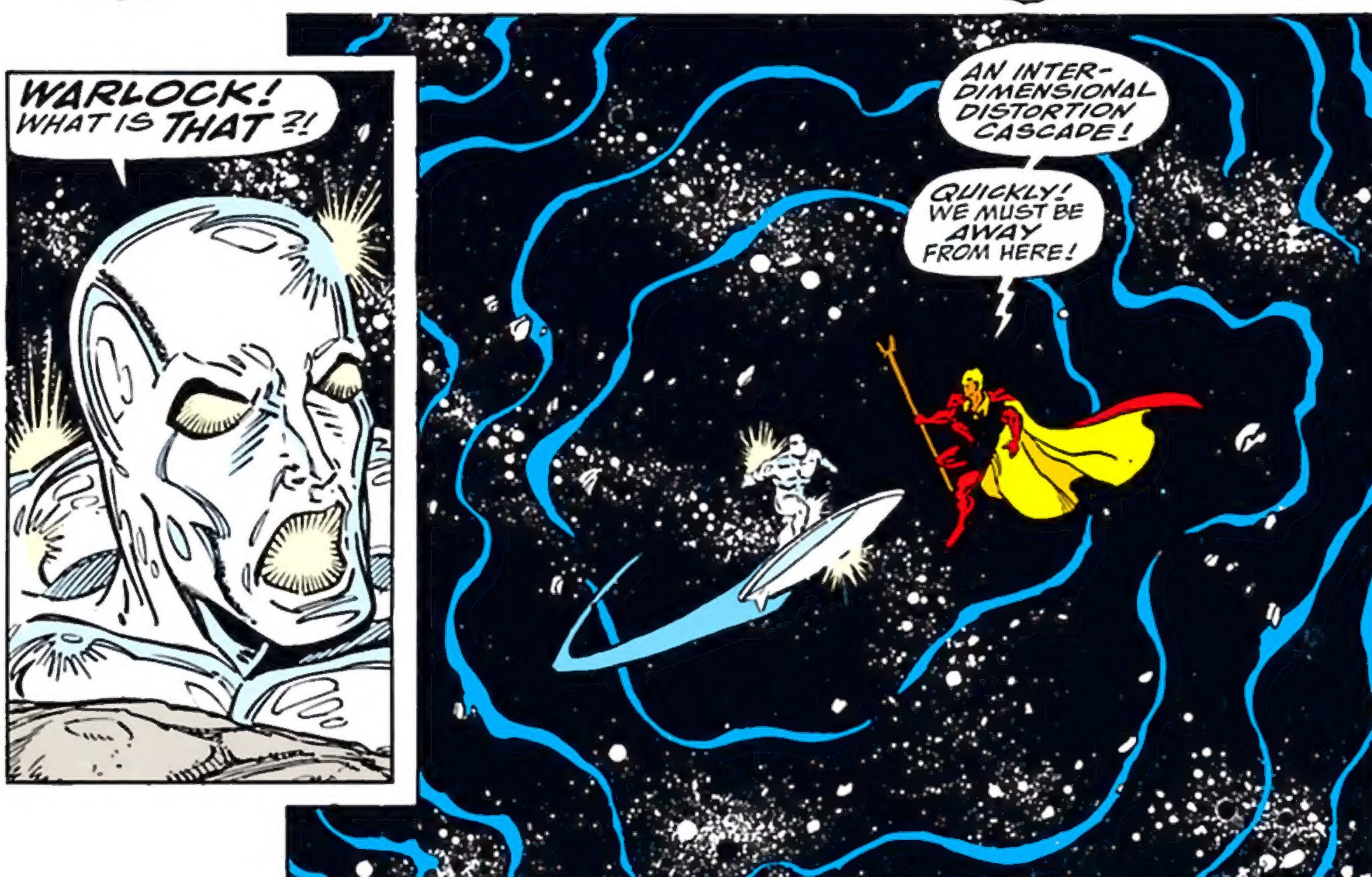
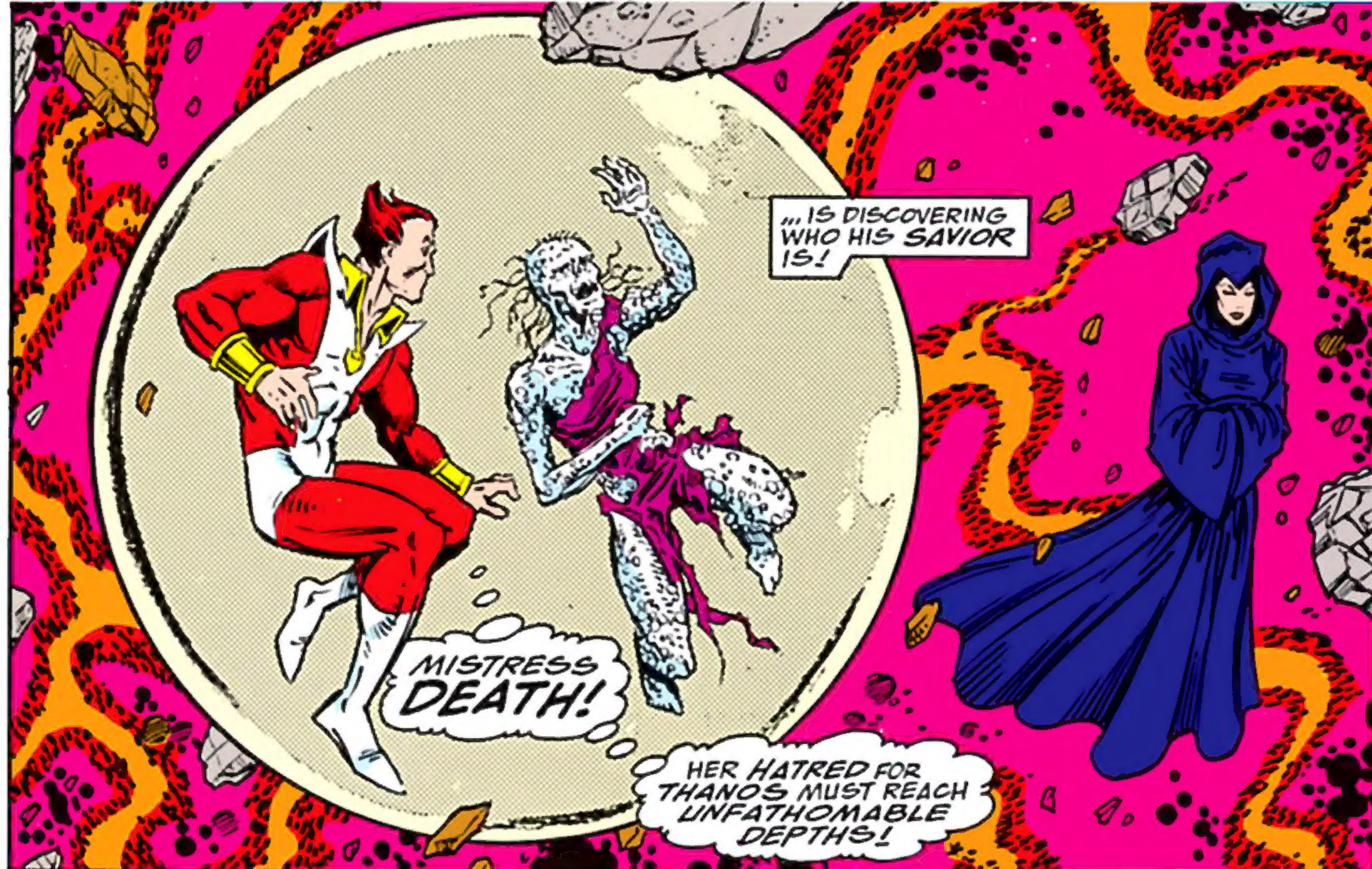


THE TITAN, EROS,  
FELT CERTAIN  
THAT DEATH WAS  
NEAR TO  
CLAIMING HIM.




THE ONLY THING  
GREATER THAN  
HIS SURPRISE  
AT FINDING HIM-  
SELF AMONG THE  
LIVING...









IF CAUGHT  
WITHIN ITS WARP-  
ING EMBRACE  
WE WILL BE  
LOST!

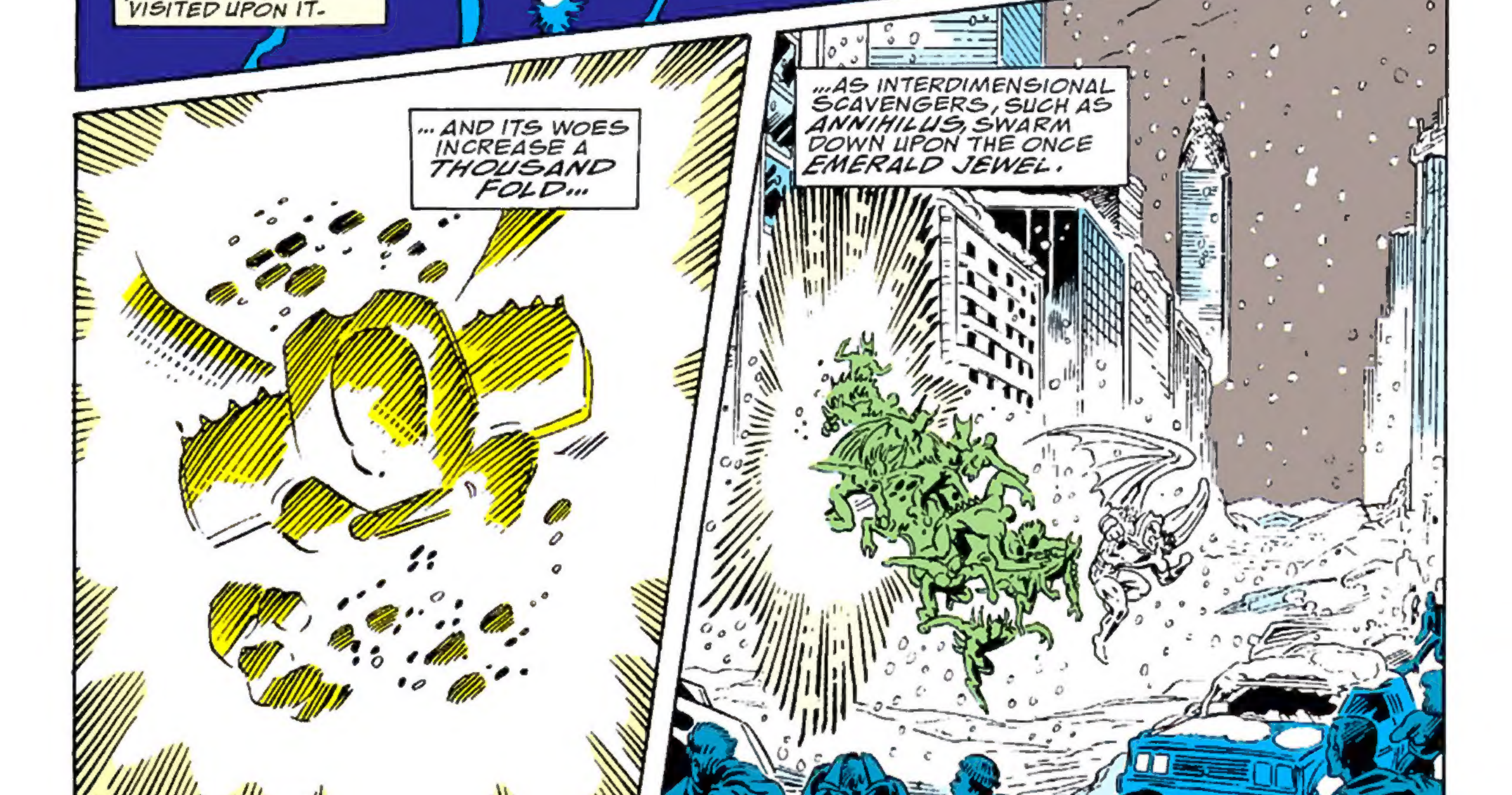
A PERILOUS  
UNIVERSE  
WHERE EACH  
SECOND  
REVEALS A  
NEW AND  
GREATER  
DANGER.

CASE IN POINT:  
THE PLANET EARTH,  
JARRED LOOSE  
FROM ITS ORBIT,  
AND DRIFTING AWAY  
FROM ITS SUN, IS  
ABOUT TO HAVE A  
NEW DOOM  
VISITED UPON IT.

A DIMENSIONAL  
DISTORTION  
CASCADE SPIRALS  
TOO NEAR THE  
FRAGILE  
WORLD...

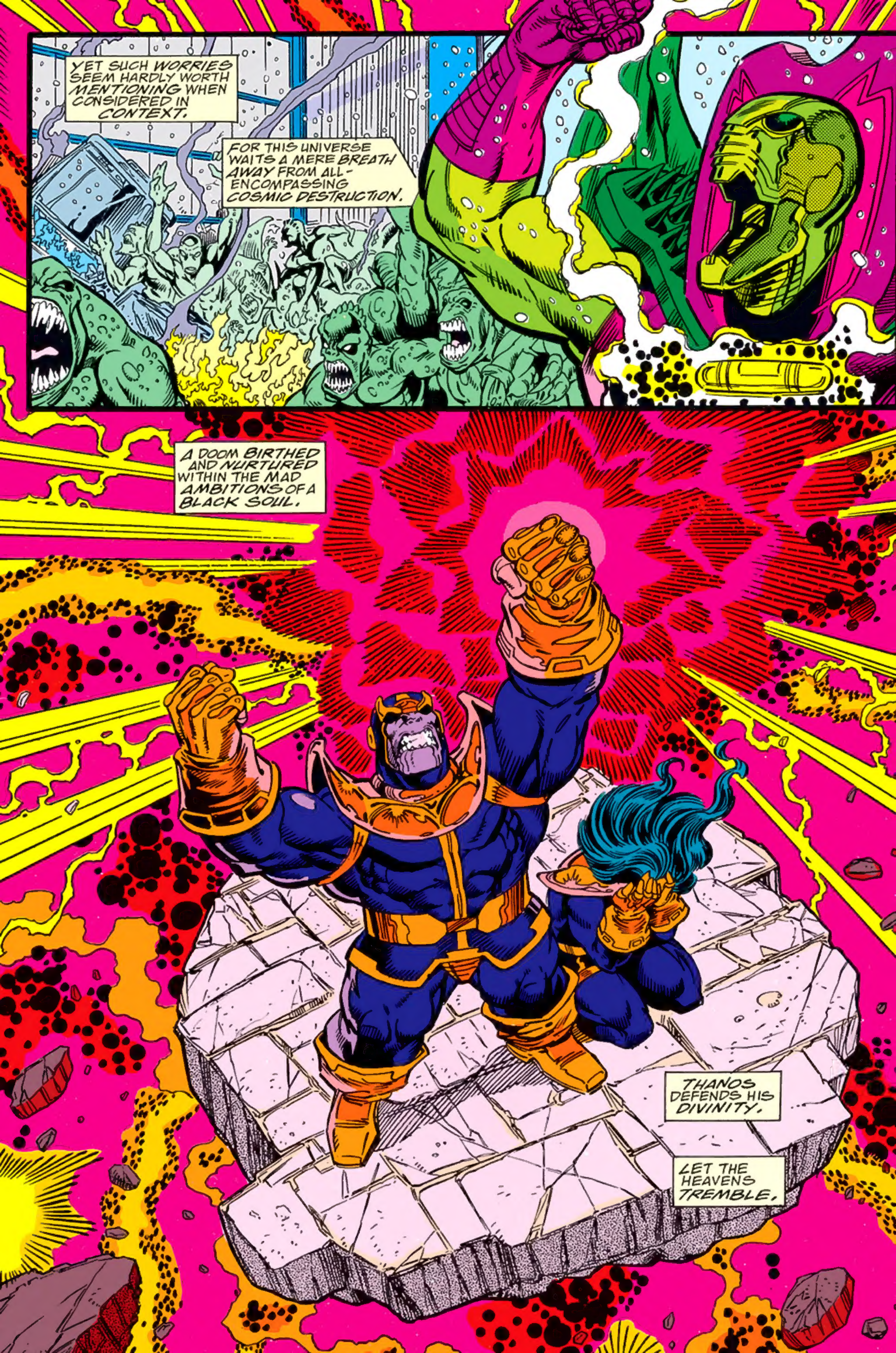


... AND ITS WOES  
INCREASE A  
THOUSAND  
FOLD...



...AS INTERDIMENSIONAL  
SCAVENGERS, SUCH AS  
ANNIHILUS, SWARM  
DOWN UPON THE ONCE  
EMERALD JEWEL.





YET SUCH WORRIES  
SEEM HARDLY WORTH  
MENTIONING WHEN  
CONSIDERED IN  
CONTEXT.

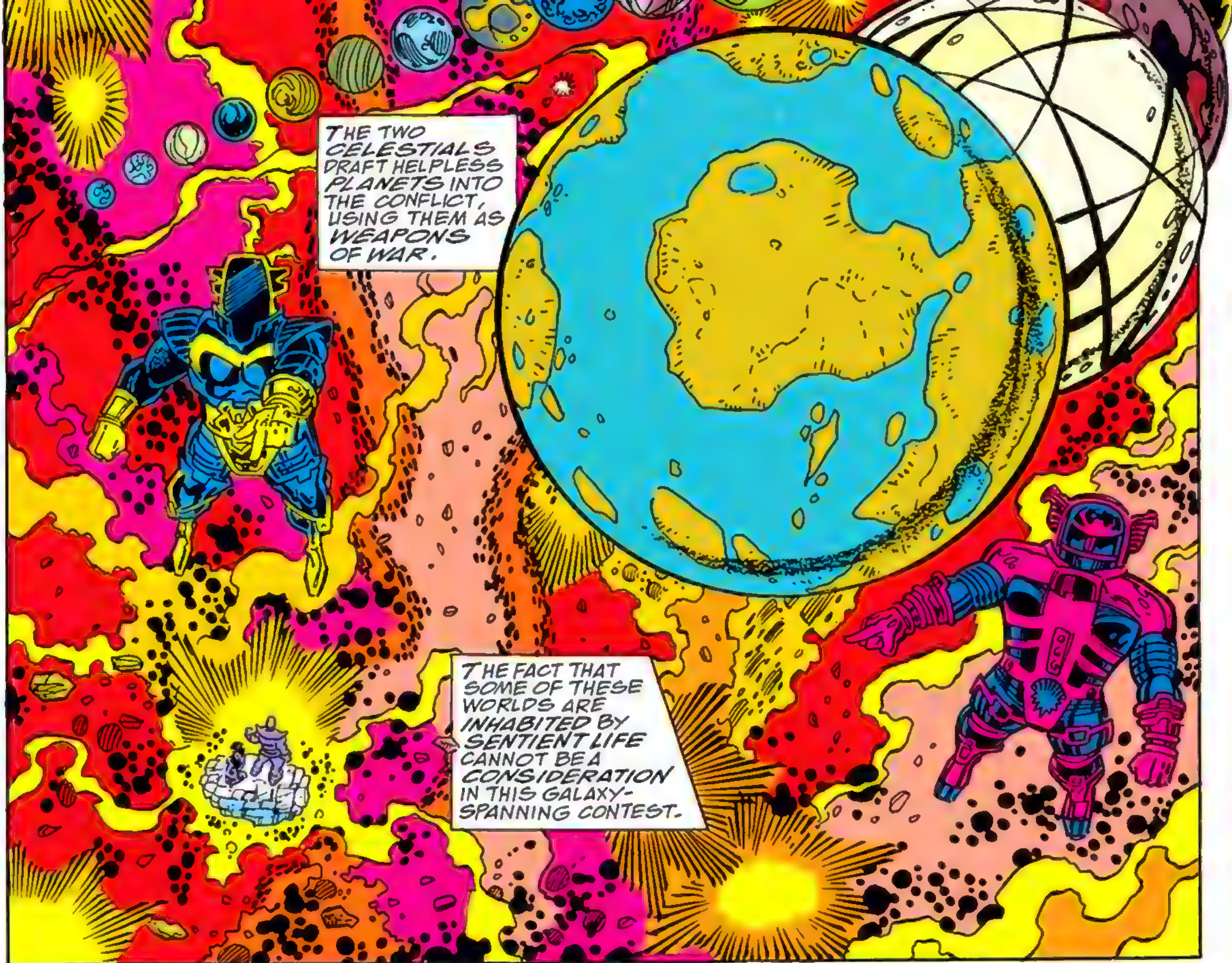
FOR THIS UNIVERSE  
WAITS A MERE BREATH  
AWAY FROM ALL-  
ENCOMPASSING  
COSMIC DESTRUCTION.

A DOOM BIRTHED  
AND NURTURED  
WITHIN THE MAD  
AMBITIONS OF A  
BLACK SOUL.

THANOS  
DEFENDS HIS  
DIVINITY.

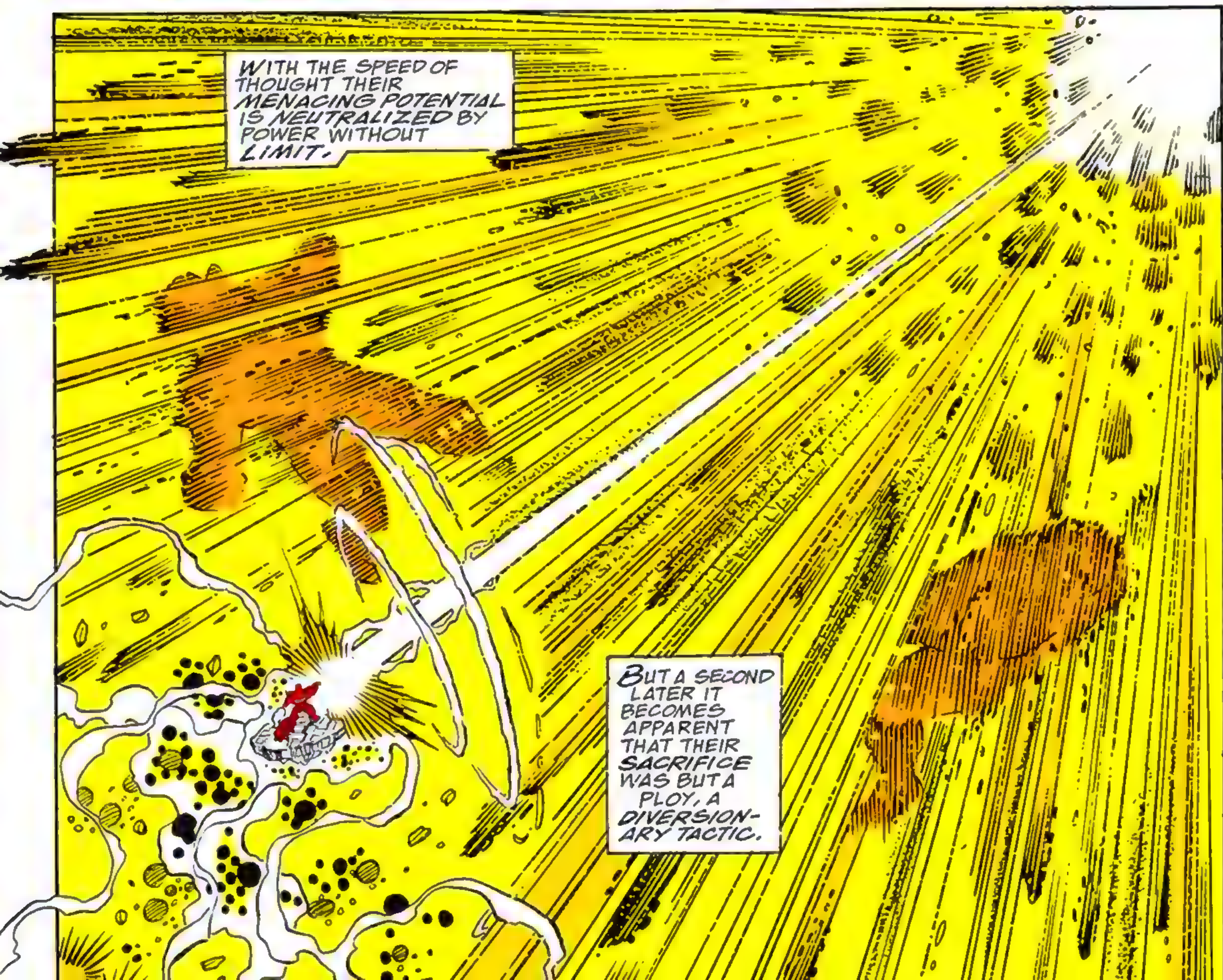
LET THE  
HEAVENS  
TREMBLE.





THE TWO  
CELESTIALS  
DRAFT HELPLESS  
PLANETS INTO  
THE CONFLICT,  
USING THEM AS  
WEAPONS  
OF WAR.

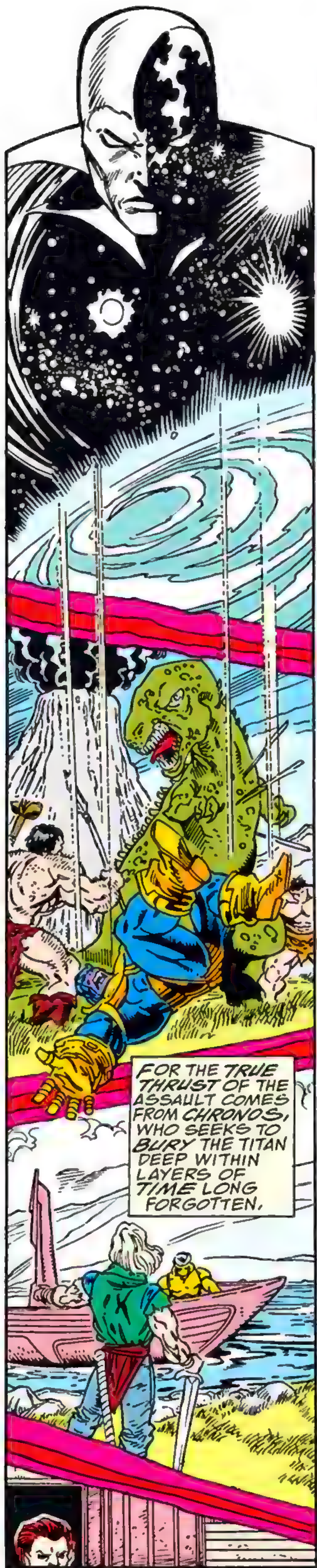
THE FACT THAT  
SOME OF THESE  
WORLDS ARE  
INHABITED BY  
SENTIENT LIFE  
CANNOT BE A  
CONSIDERATION  
IN THIS GALAXY-  
SPANNING CONTEST.



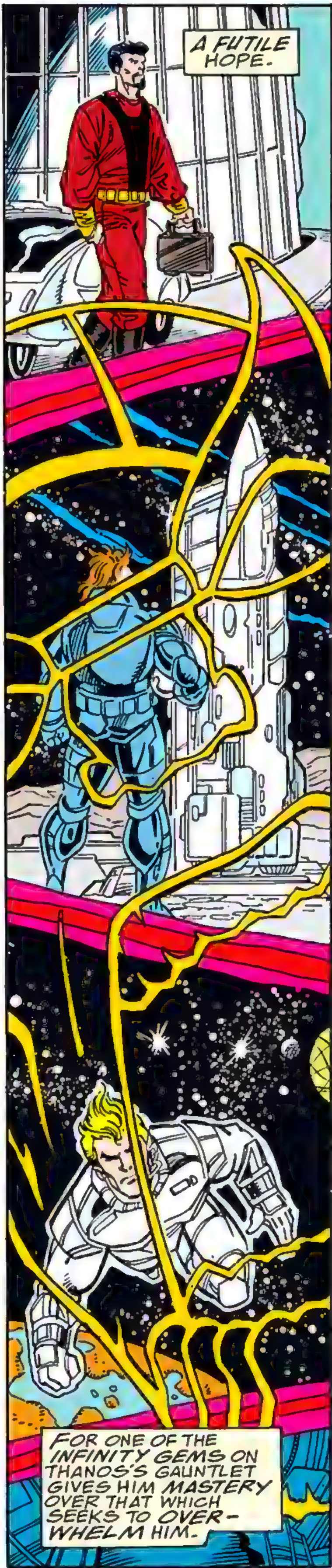
WITH THE SPEED OF  
THOUGHT THEIR  
MENACING POTENTIAL  
IS NEUTRALIZED BY  
POWER WITHOUT  
LIMIT.

BUT A SECOND  
LATER IT  
BECOMES  
APPARENT  
THAT THEIR  
SACRIFICE  
WAS BUT A  
PLOY, A  
DIVERSION-  
ARY TACTIC.





FOR THE TRUE THRUST OF THE ASSAULT COMES FROM CHRONOS, WHO SEEKS TO BURY THE TITAN DEEP WITHIN LAYERS OF TIME LONG FORGOTTEN.



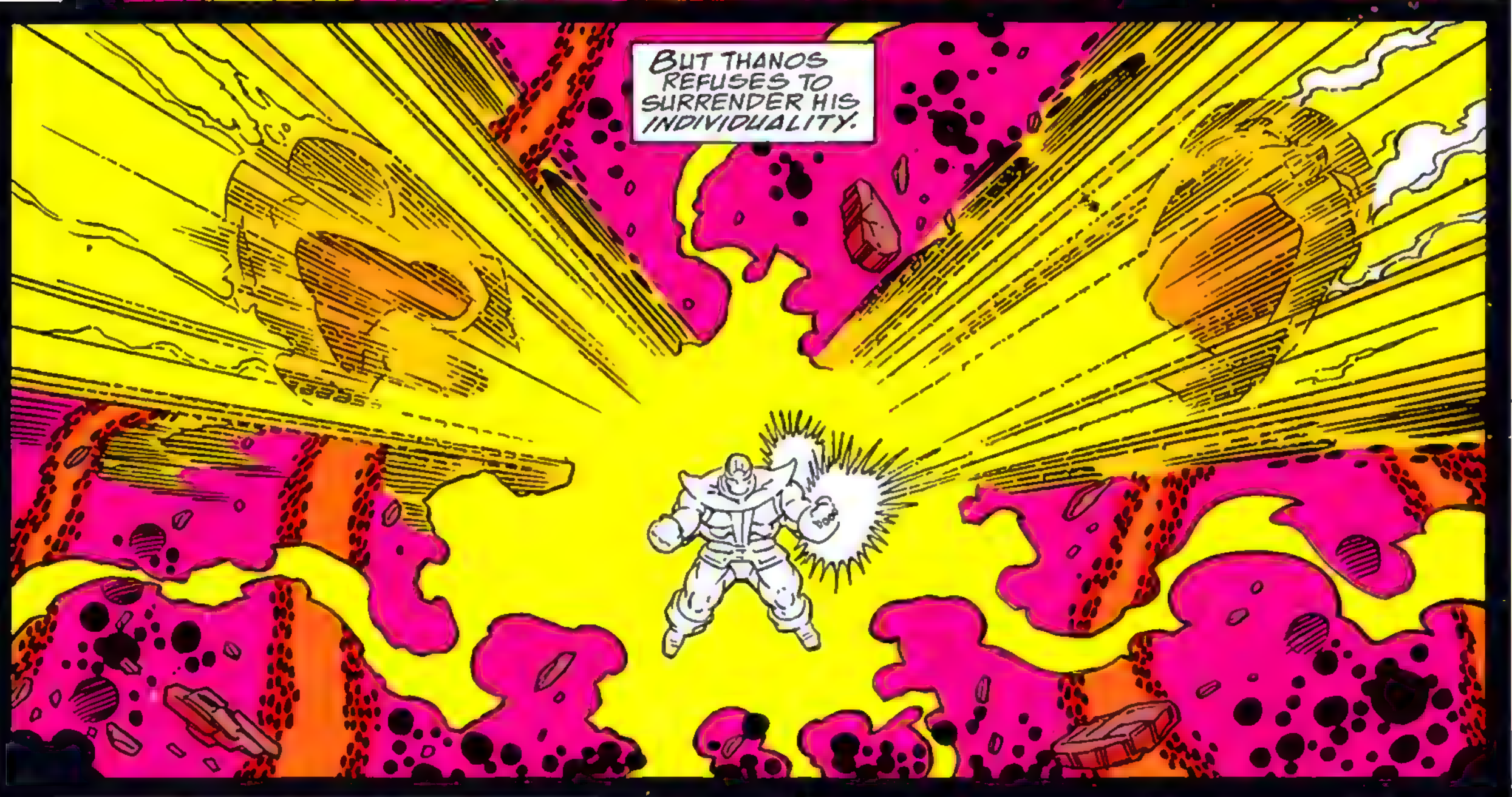
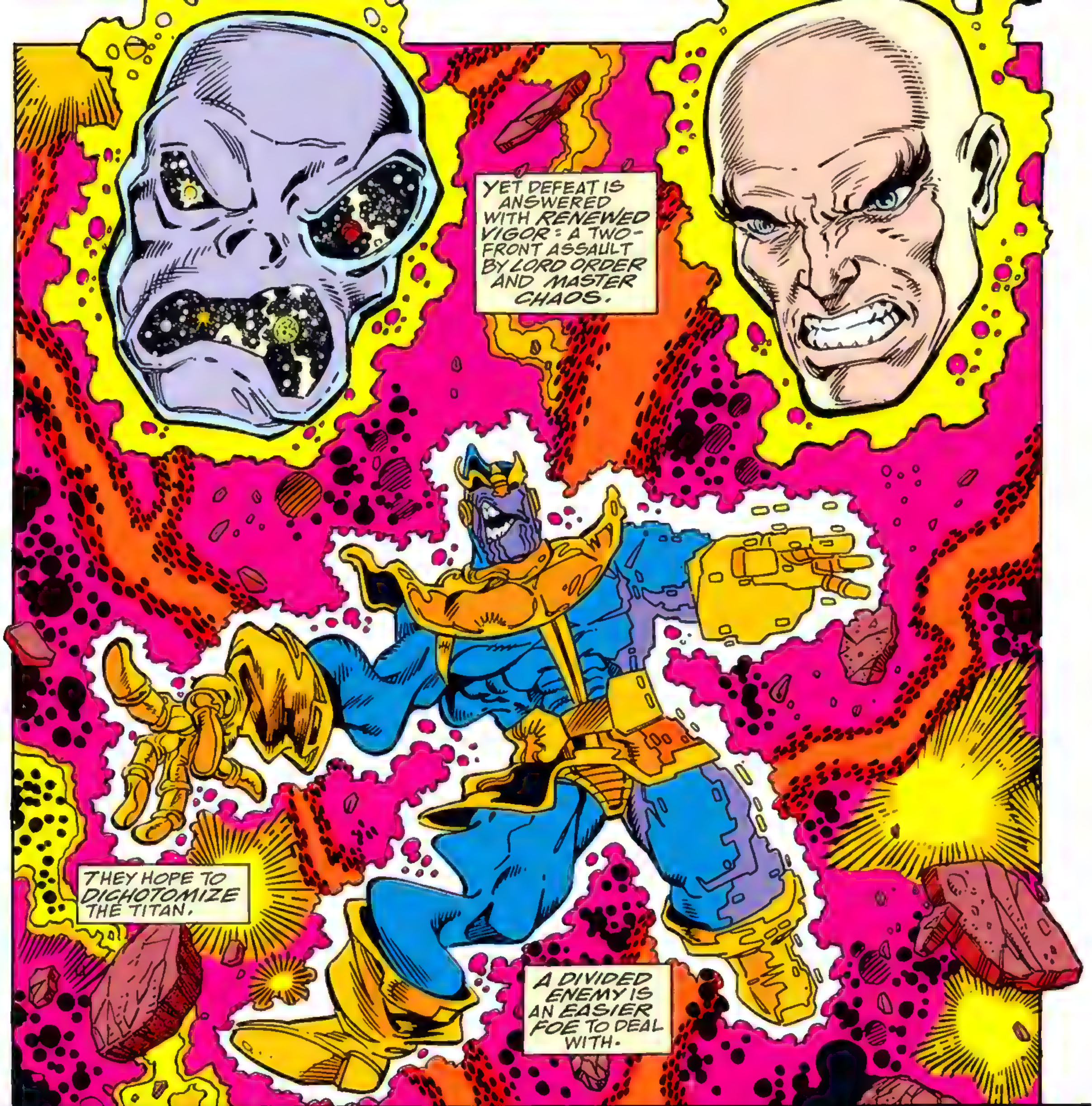
A FUTILE HOPE.

FOR ONE OF THE INFINITY GEMS ON THANOS'S GAUNTLET GIVES HIM MASTERY OVER THAT WHICH SEEKS TO OVERWHELM HIM.




IT BE LIKE STRIVING TO DROWN AN OCEAN

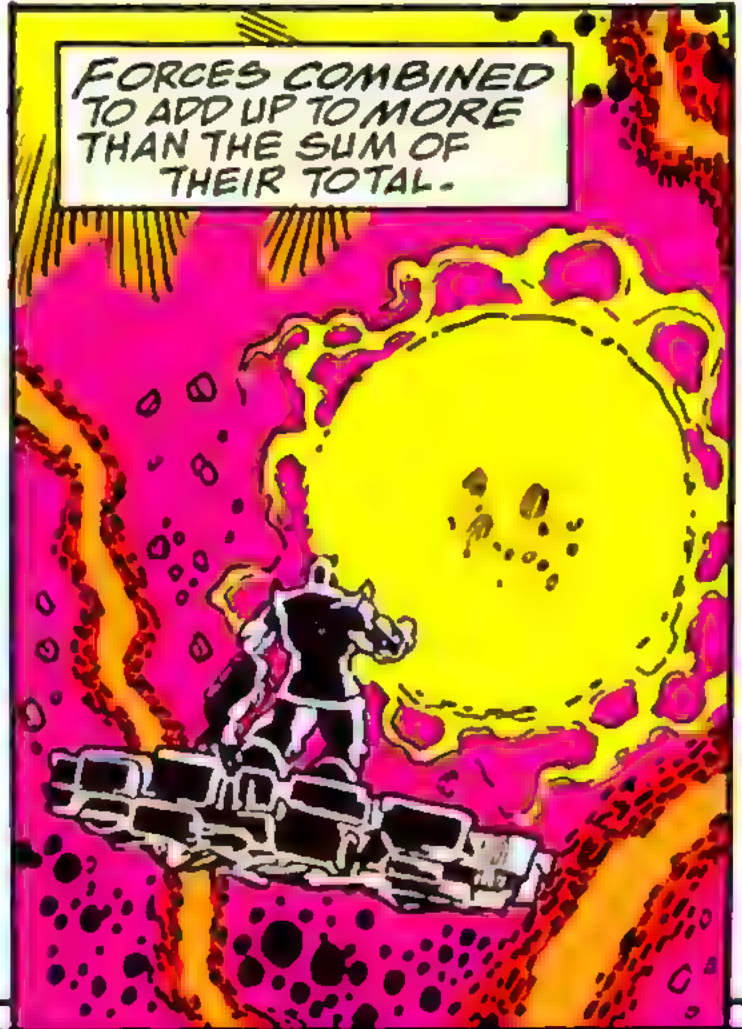









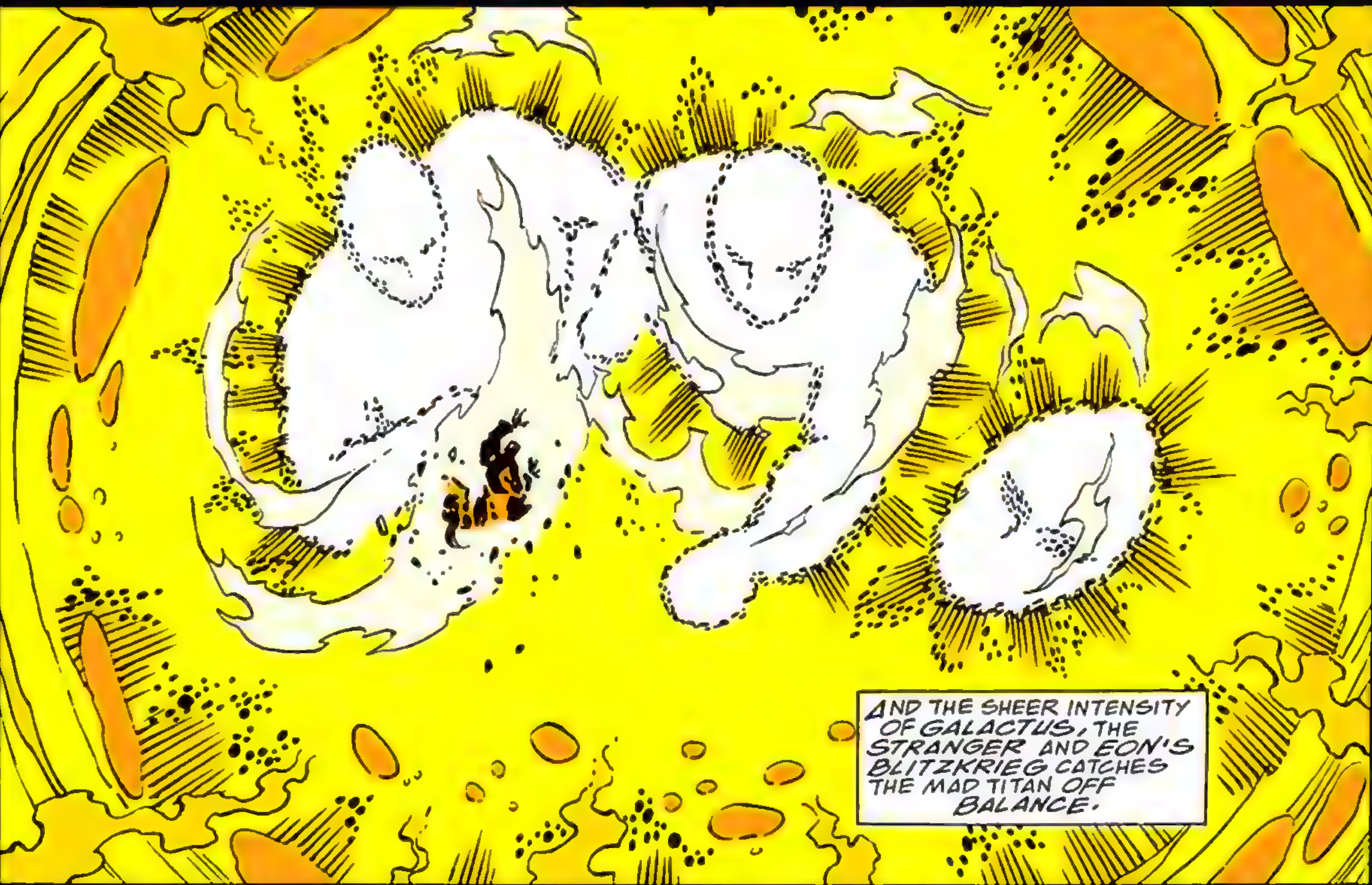
AND THE BATTLE  
CONTINUES TO  
RAGE WITHOUT  
PAUSE.



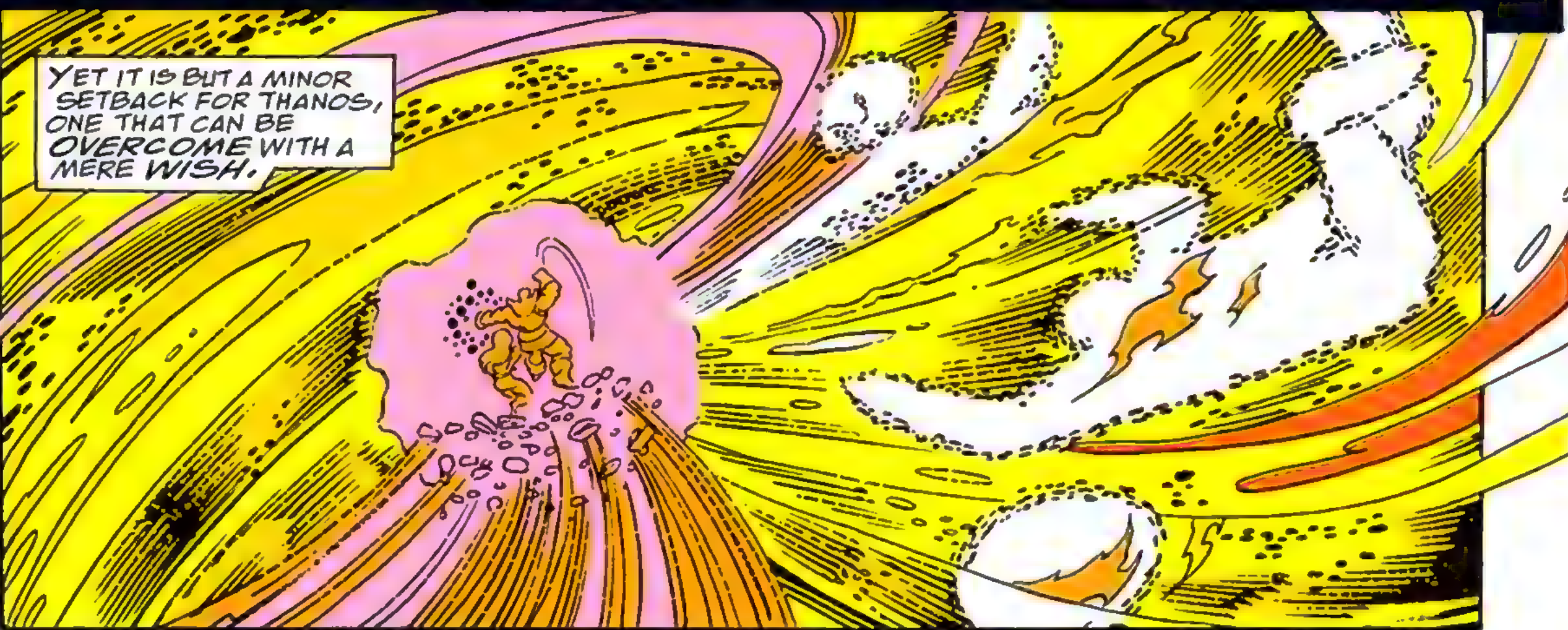
FORCES COMBINED  
TO ADD UP TO MORE  
THAN THE SUM OF  
THEIR TOTAL.



THE  
TEMPORAL  
IS ABAN-  
DONED FOR  
PURE  
FORCE OF  
ENERGY.

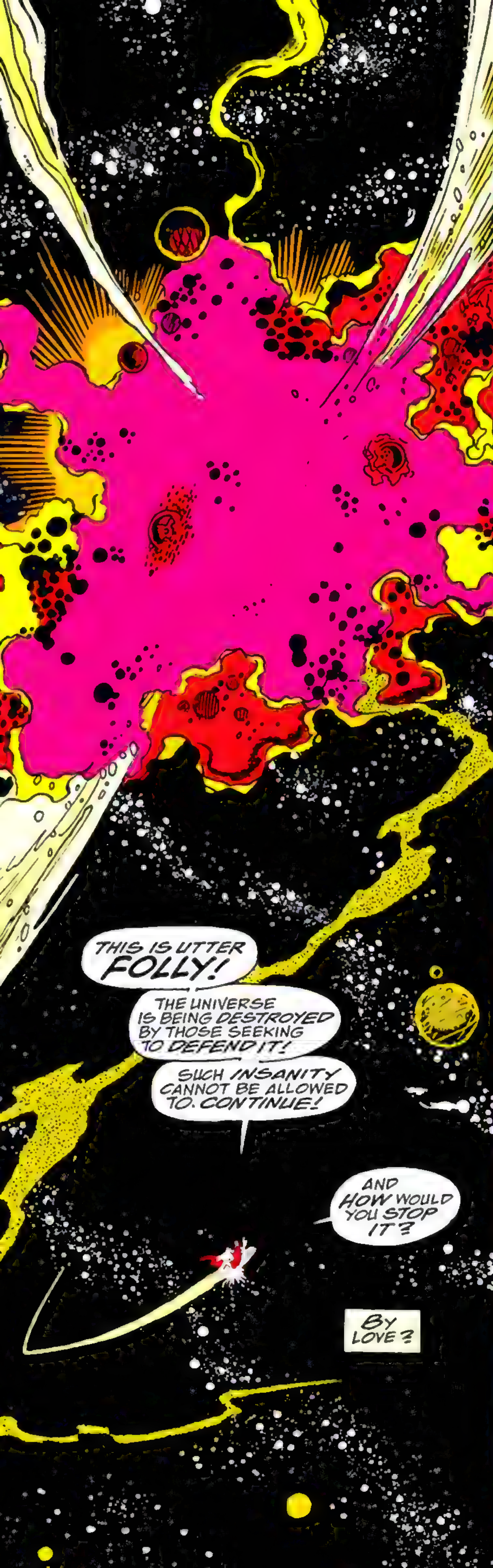


AND THE SHEER INTENSITY  
OF GALACTUS, THE  
STRANGER AND EON'S  
BLITZKRIEG CATCHES  
THE MAD TITAN OFF  
BALANCE.



YET IT IS BUT A MINOR  
SETBACK FOR THANOS,  
ONE THAT CAN BE  
OVERCOME WITH A  
MERE WISH.





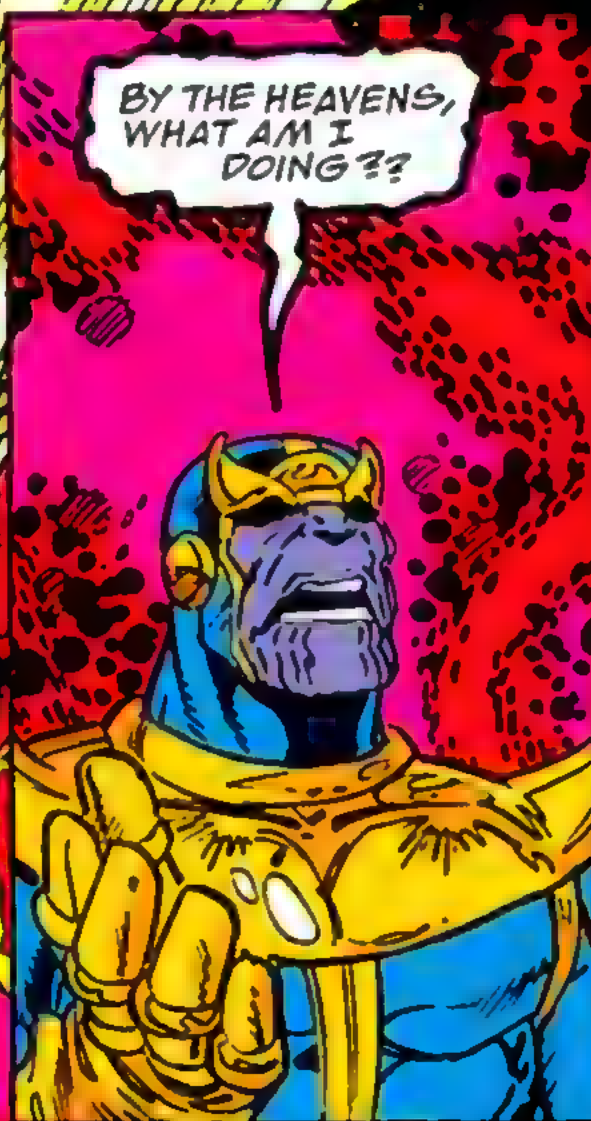
THIS IS UTTER  
**FOLLY!**

THE UNIVERSE  
IS BEING DESTROYED  
BY THOSE SEEKING  
TO DEFEND IT!

SUCH INSANITY  
CANNOT BE ALLOWED  
TO CONTINUE!

AND  
HOW WOULD  
YOU STOP  
IT?

BY  
LOVE?



BY THE HEAVENS,  
WHAT AM I  
DOING??



GIVING THOSE  
WRETCHES EXACTLY  
WHAT THEY  
DESERVE!



BUT THEY ARE MY  
HEAVENLY  
BROTHERS...



AND I WILL  
KILL THEM  
ALL!

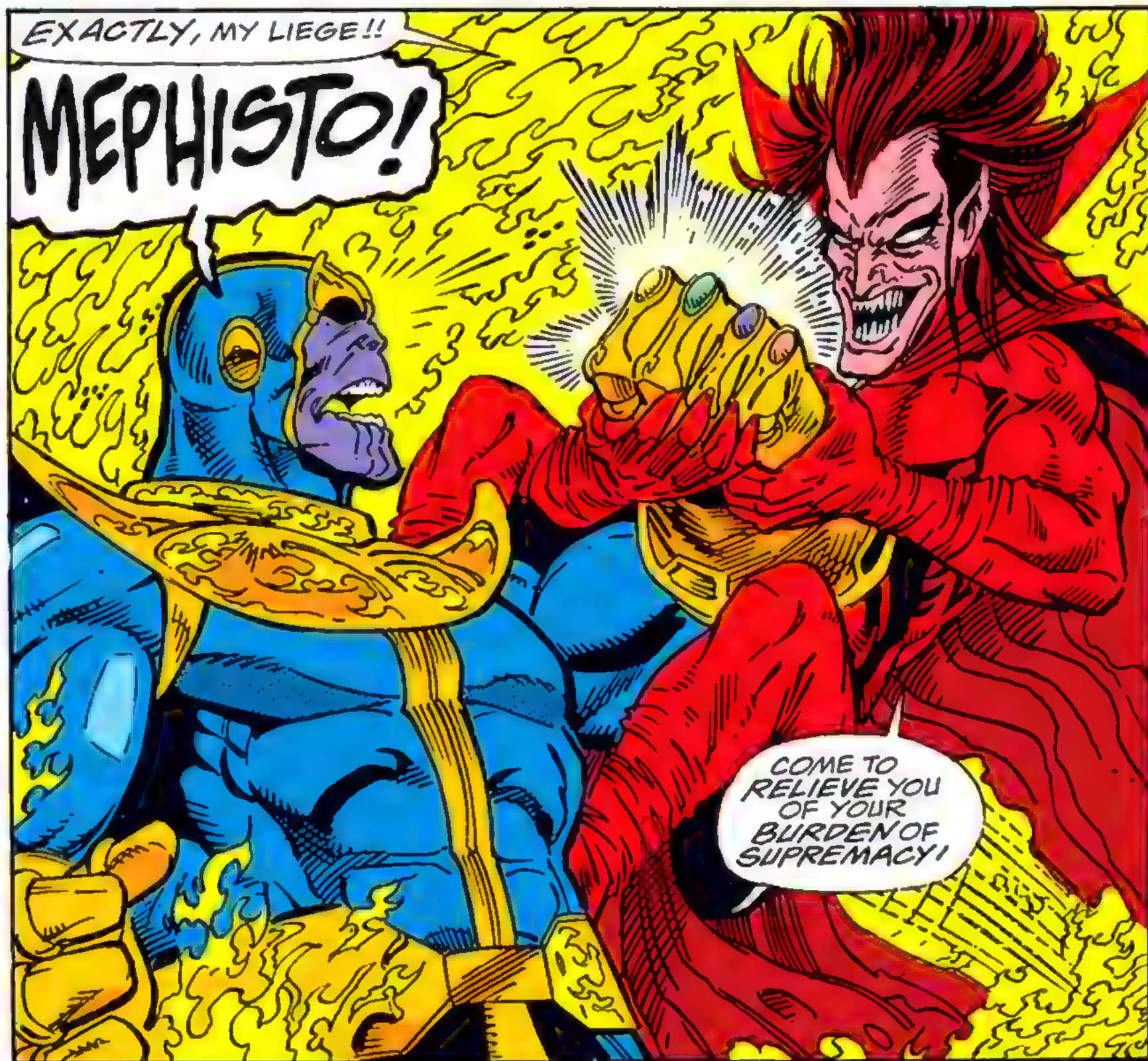
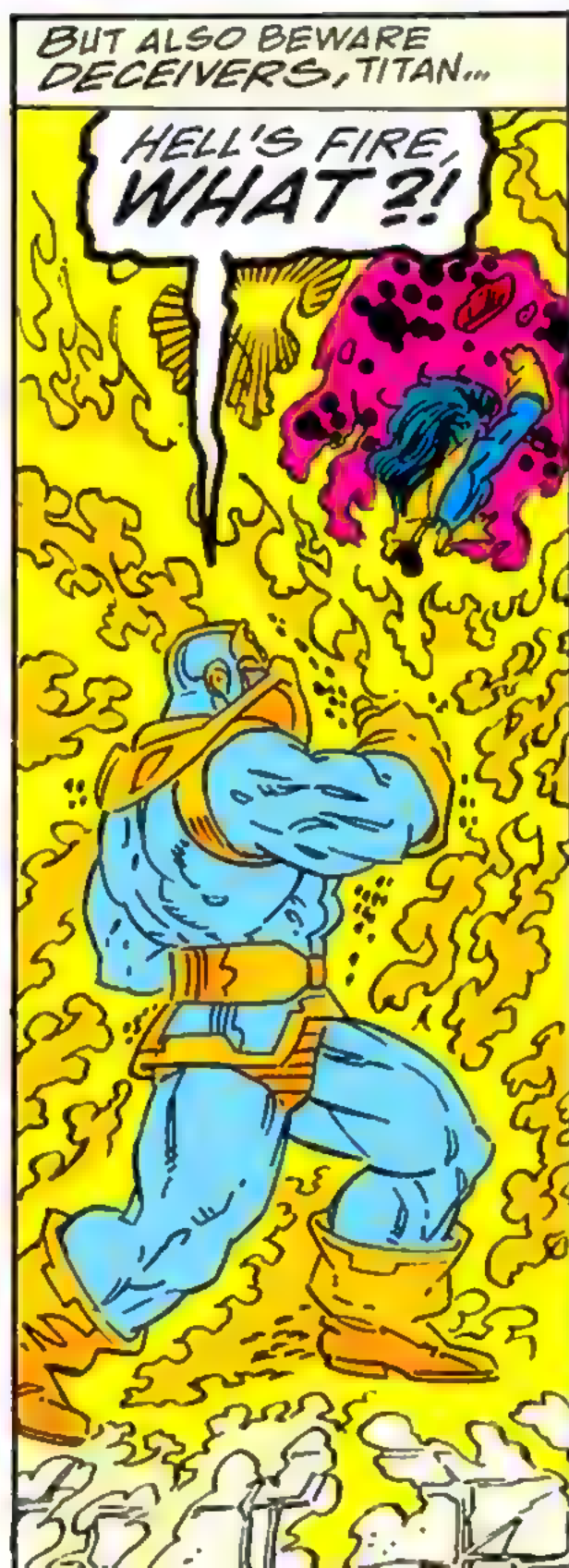
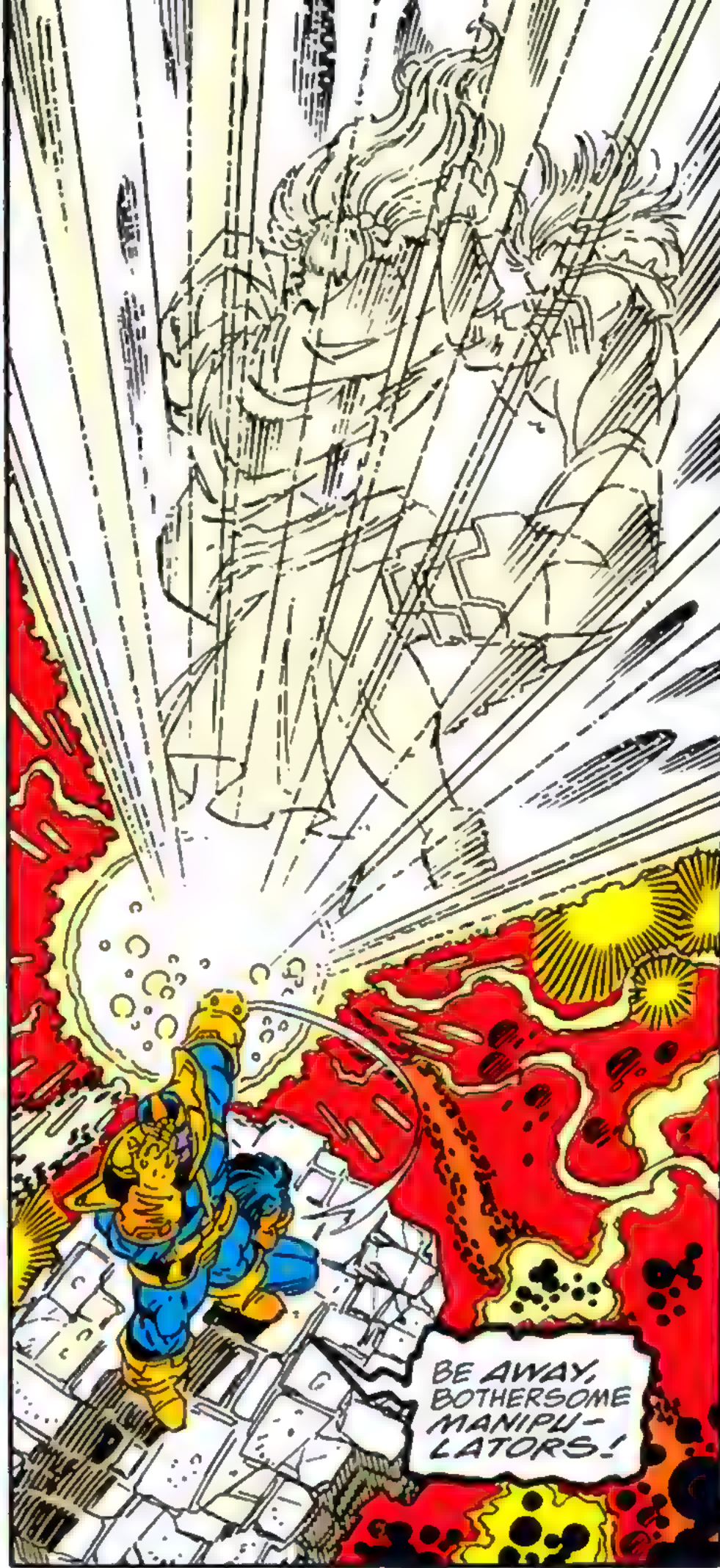
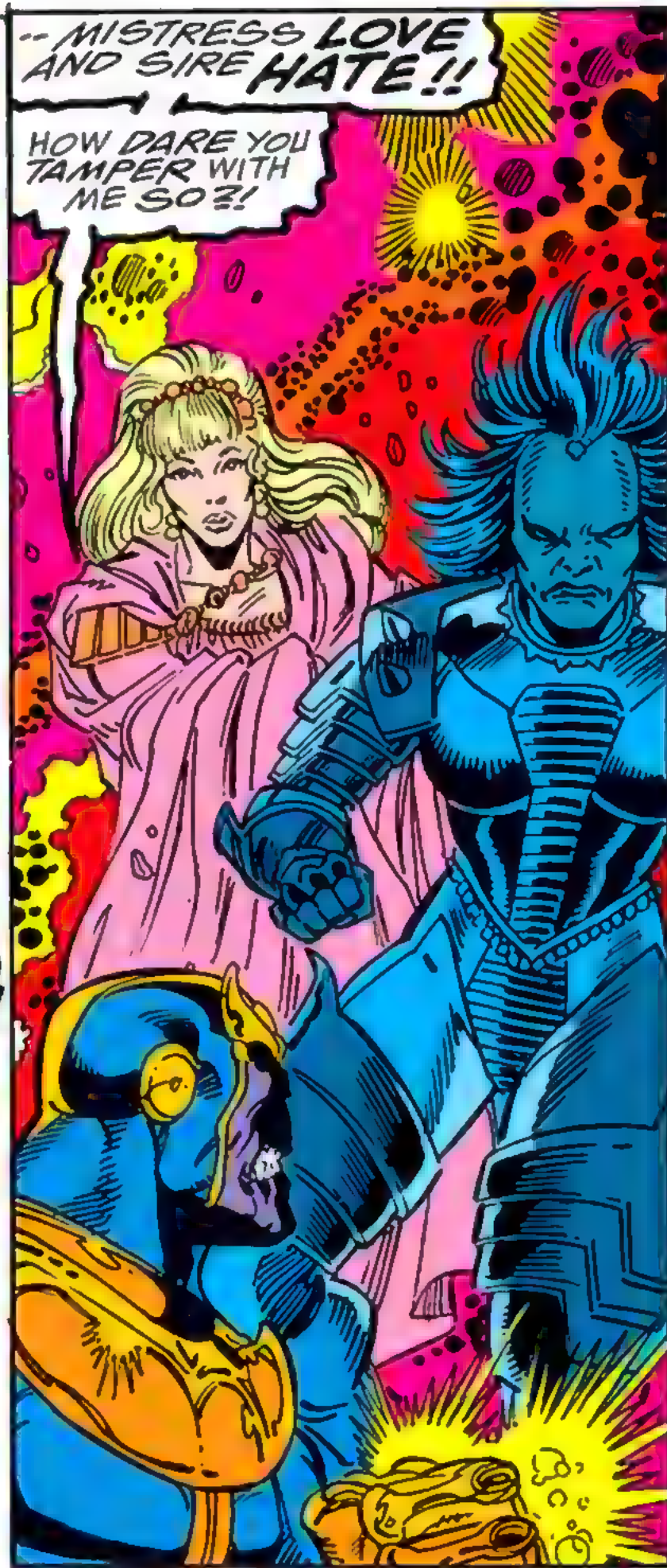
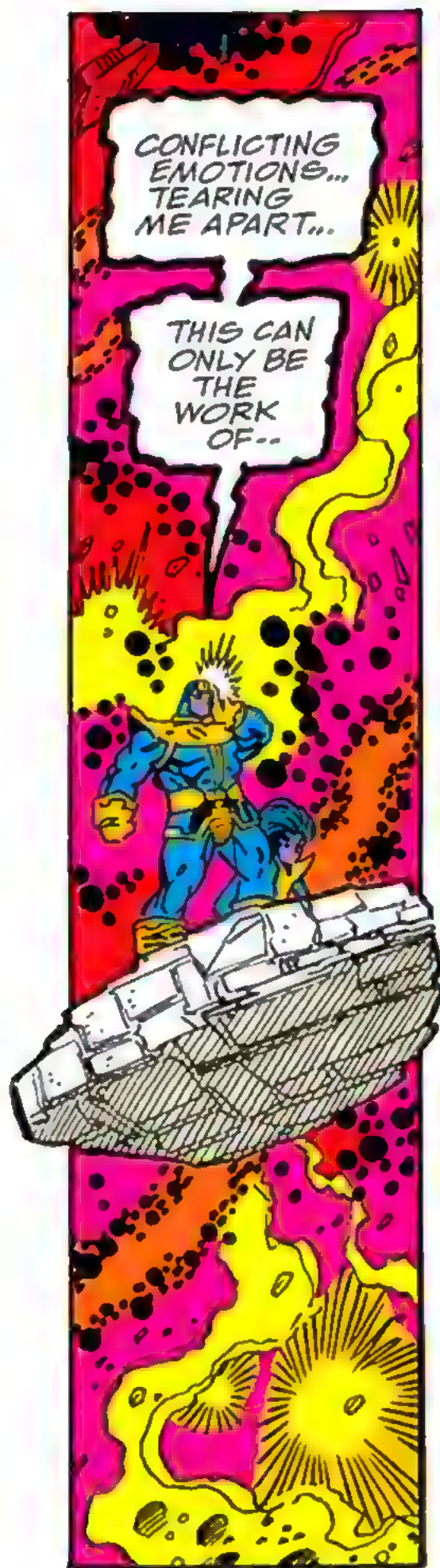


NO, I SHOULD  
HONOR AND  
CHERISH  
THEM!

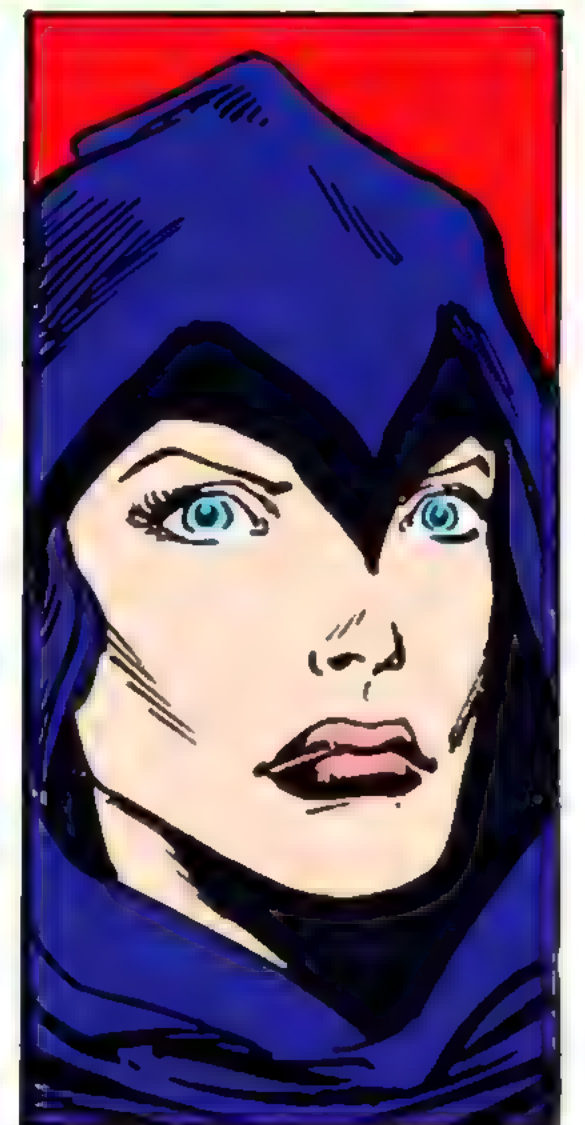
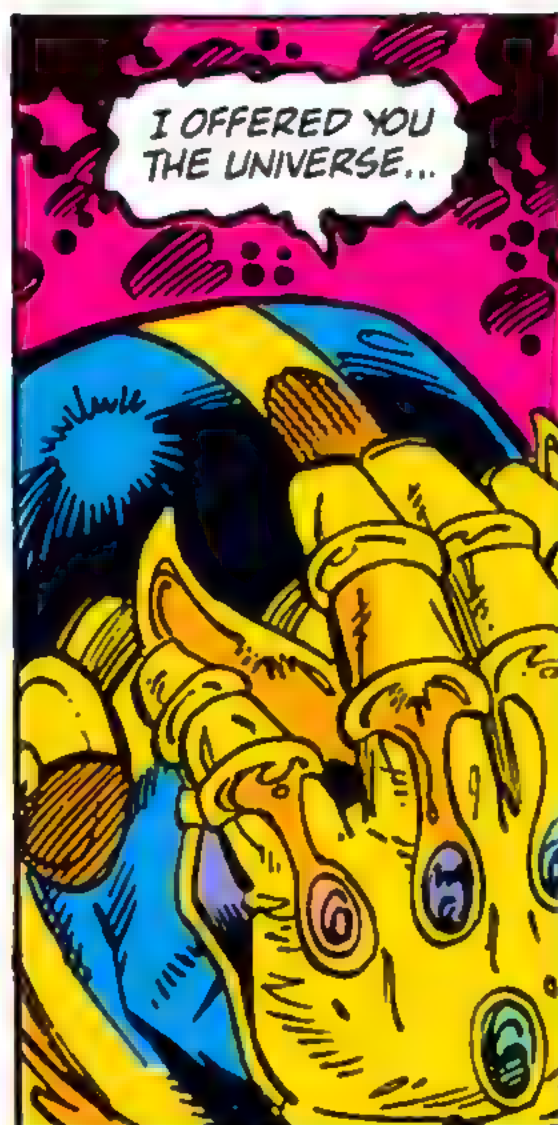
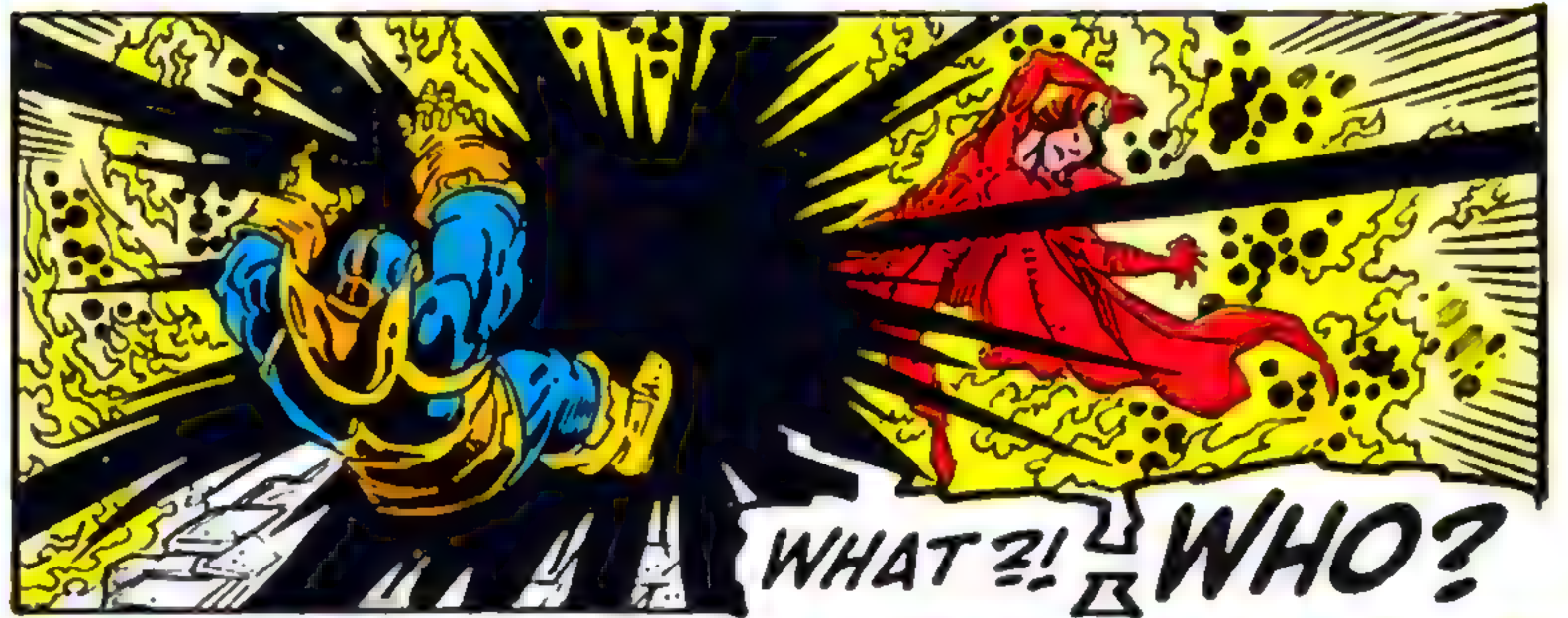
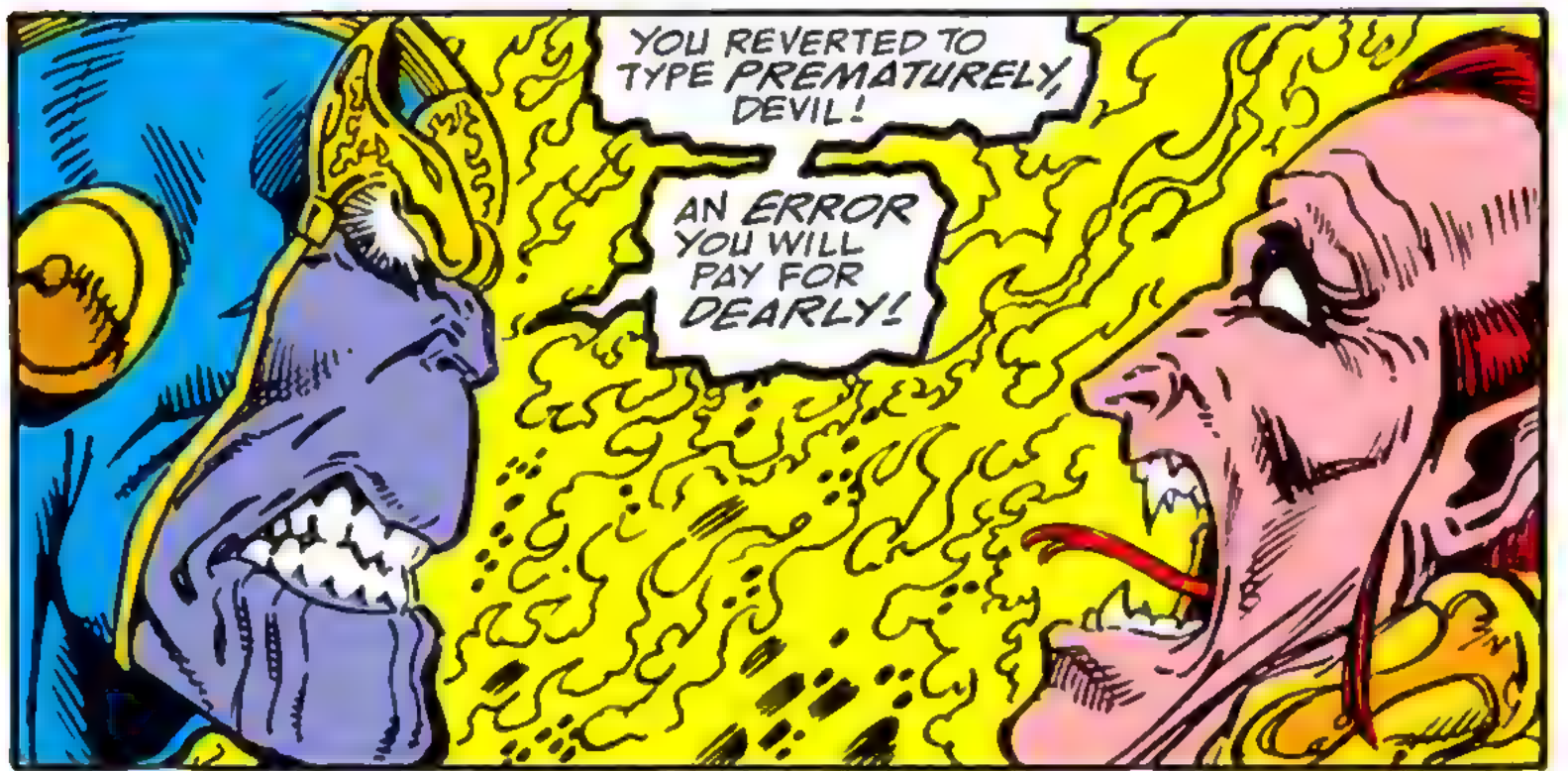


WHAT  
**MADNESS**  
IS THIS!?!

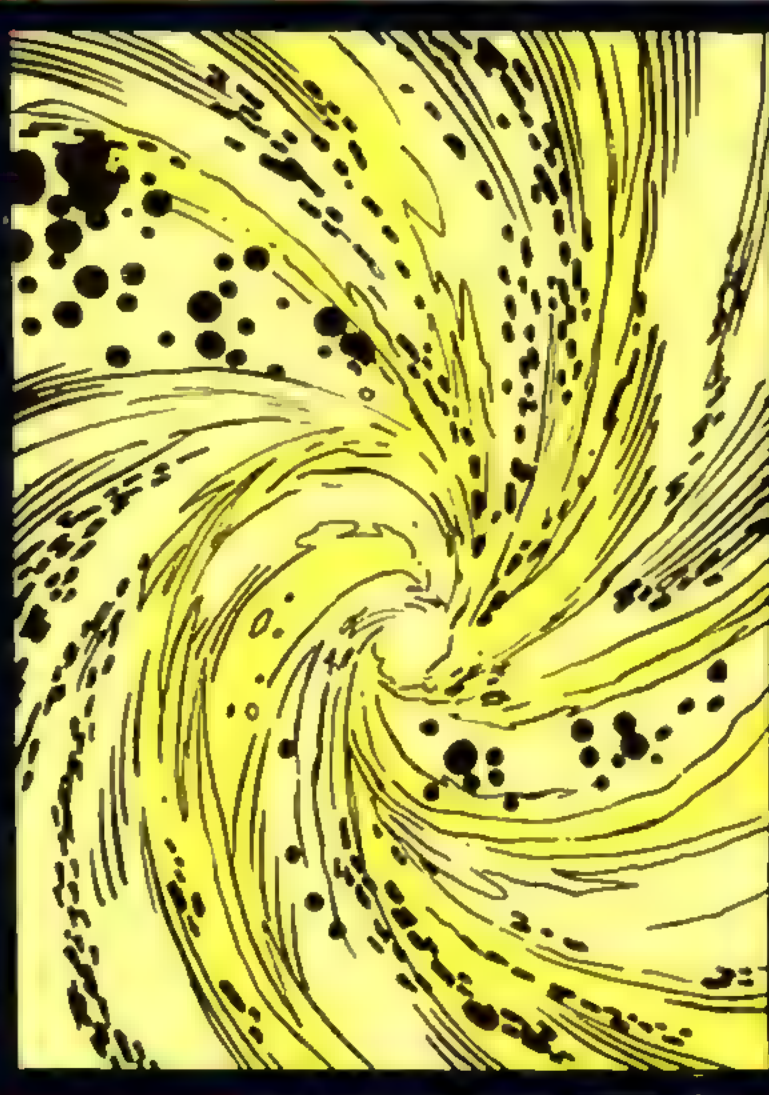
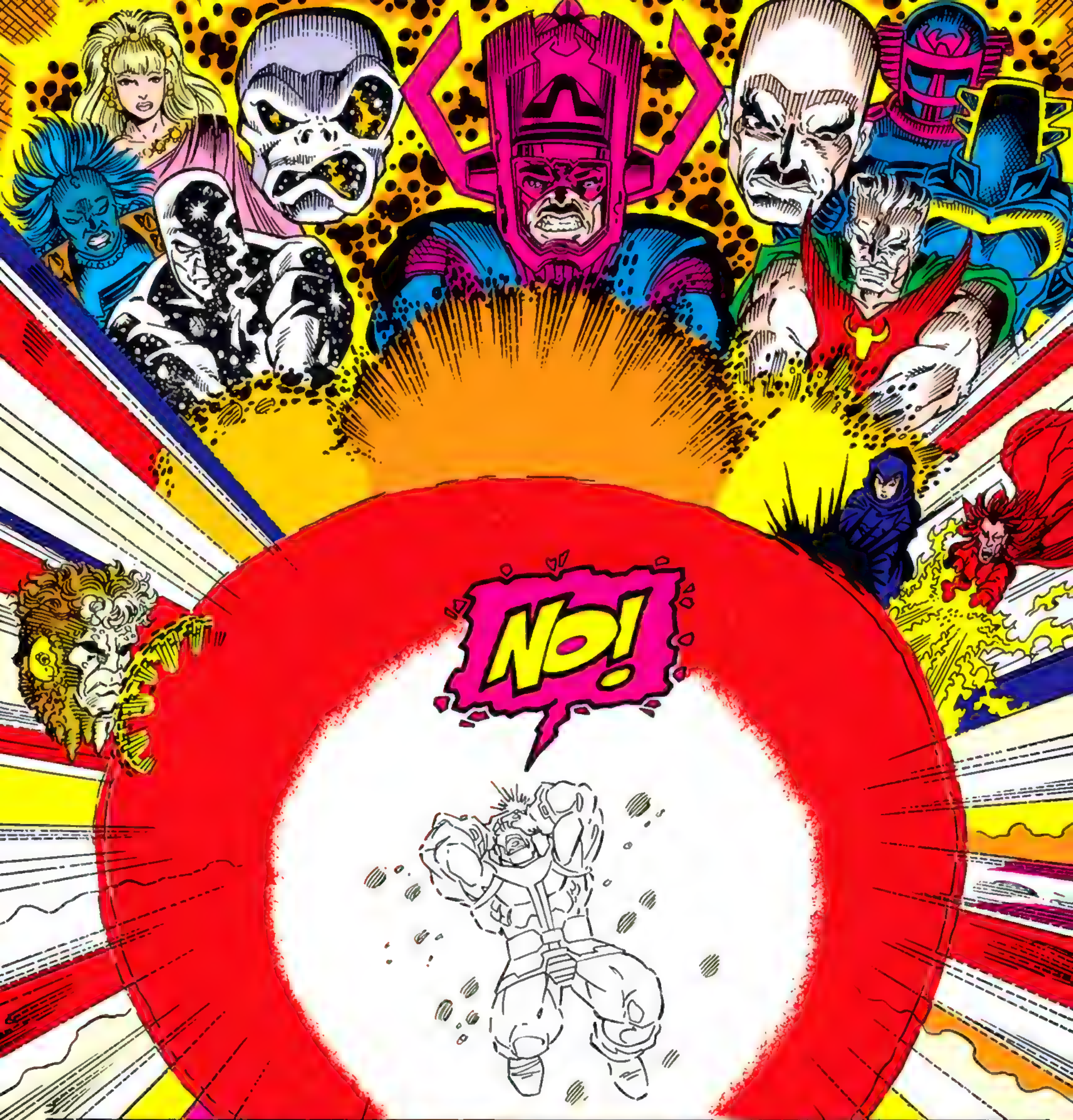














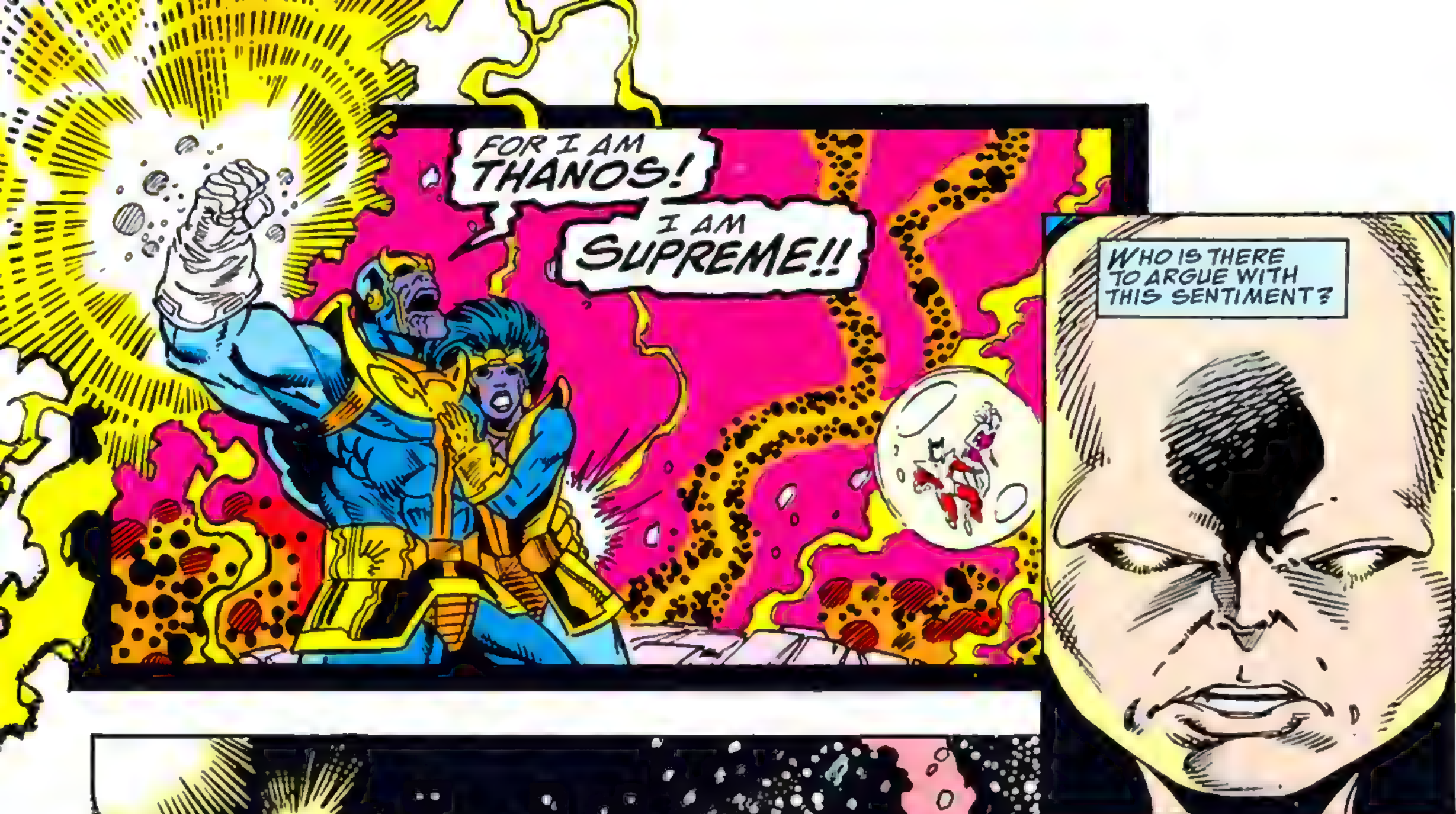


'TIS TRULY BEST  
THIS WAY!

DIVINITY CALLS FOR  
CLEAR THINKING,  
UNBURDENED WITH  
CHAOTIC EMOTION.

LET ME BE  
RID OF ALL  
ILLUSIONS.

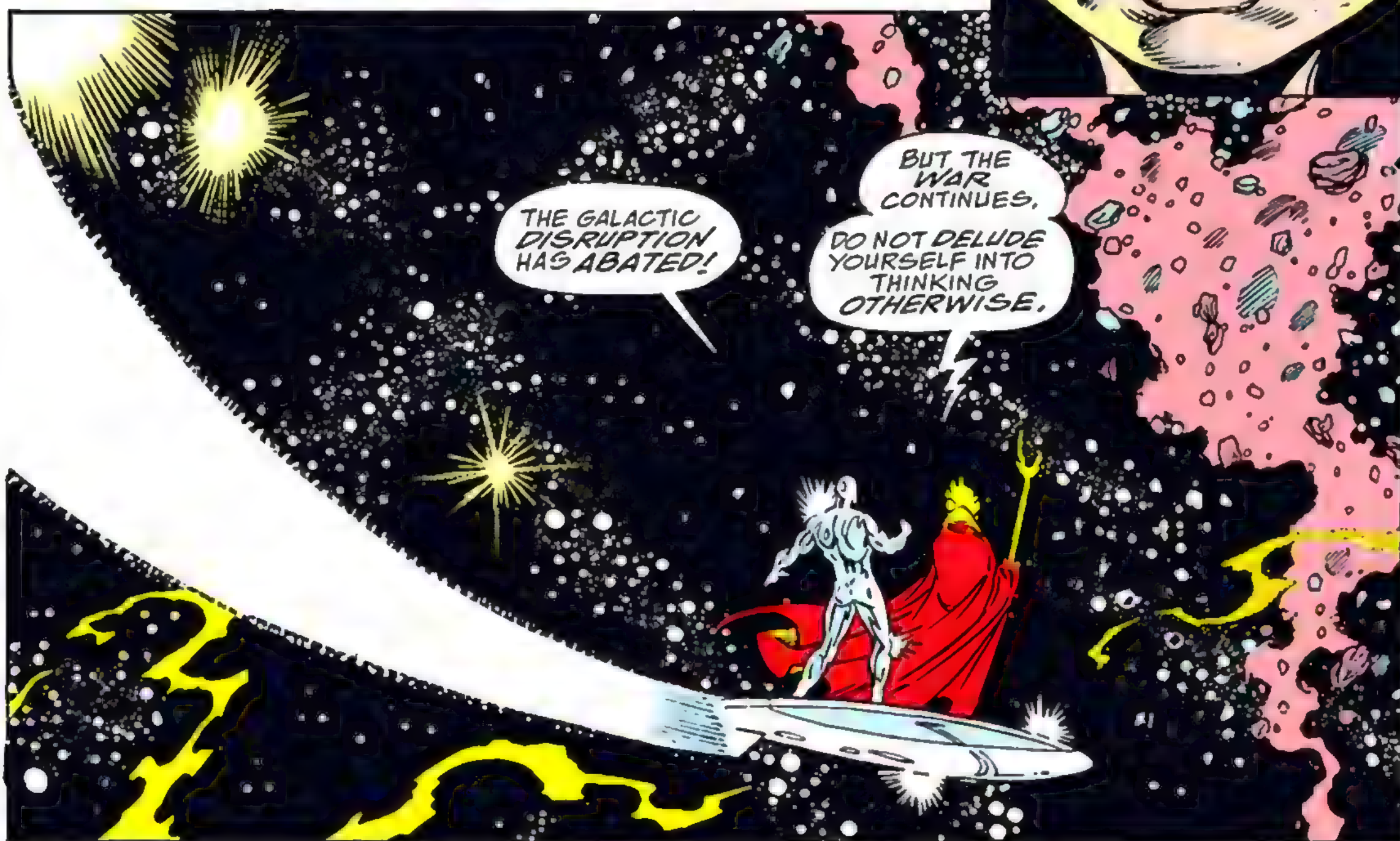




FOR I AM  
THANOS!

I AM  
SUPREME!!

WHO IS THERE  
TO ARGUE WITH  
THIS SENTIMENT?



THE GALACTIC  
DISRUPTION  
HAS ABATED!

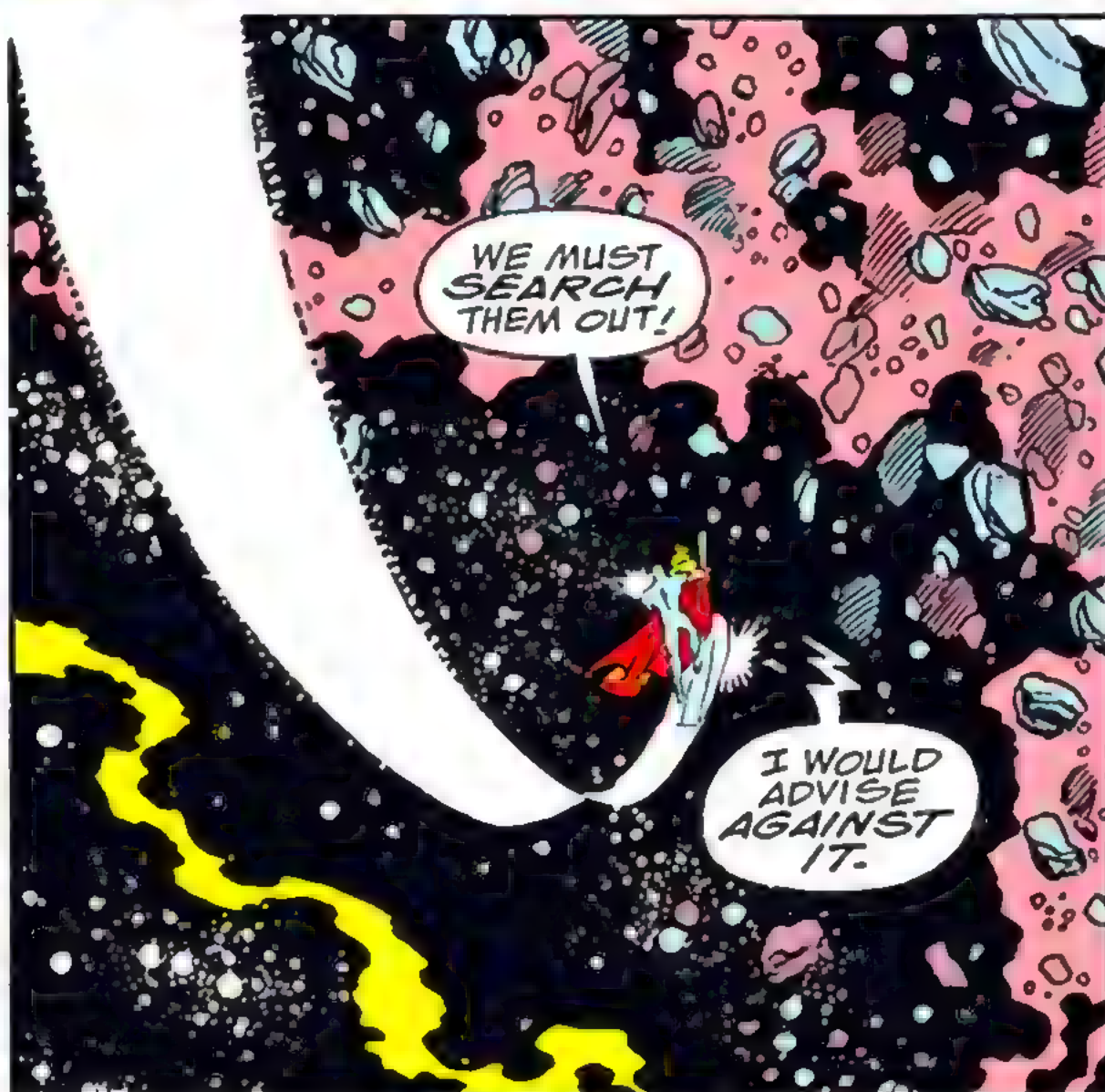
BUT THE  
WAR  
CONTINUES.  
DO NOT DELUDE  
YOURSELF INTO  
THINKING  
OTHERWISE.



THIS SHATTERED  
WORLD IN THE DIS-  
TANCE... I KNOW IT,  
HAVE VISITED IT...

IT WAS IN-  
HABITED!

THERE MIGHT  
WELL BE  
SURVIVORS  
AMIDST THE  
WRECKAGE!



WE MUST  
SEARCH  
THEM OUT!

I WOULD  
ADVISE  
AGAINST  
IT.



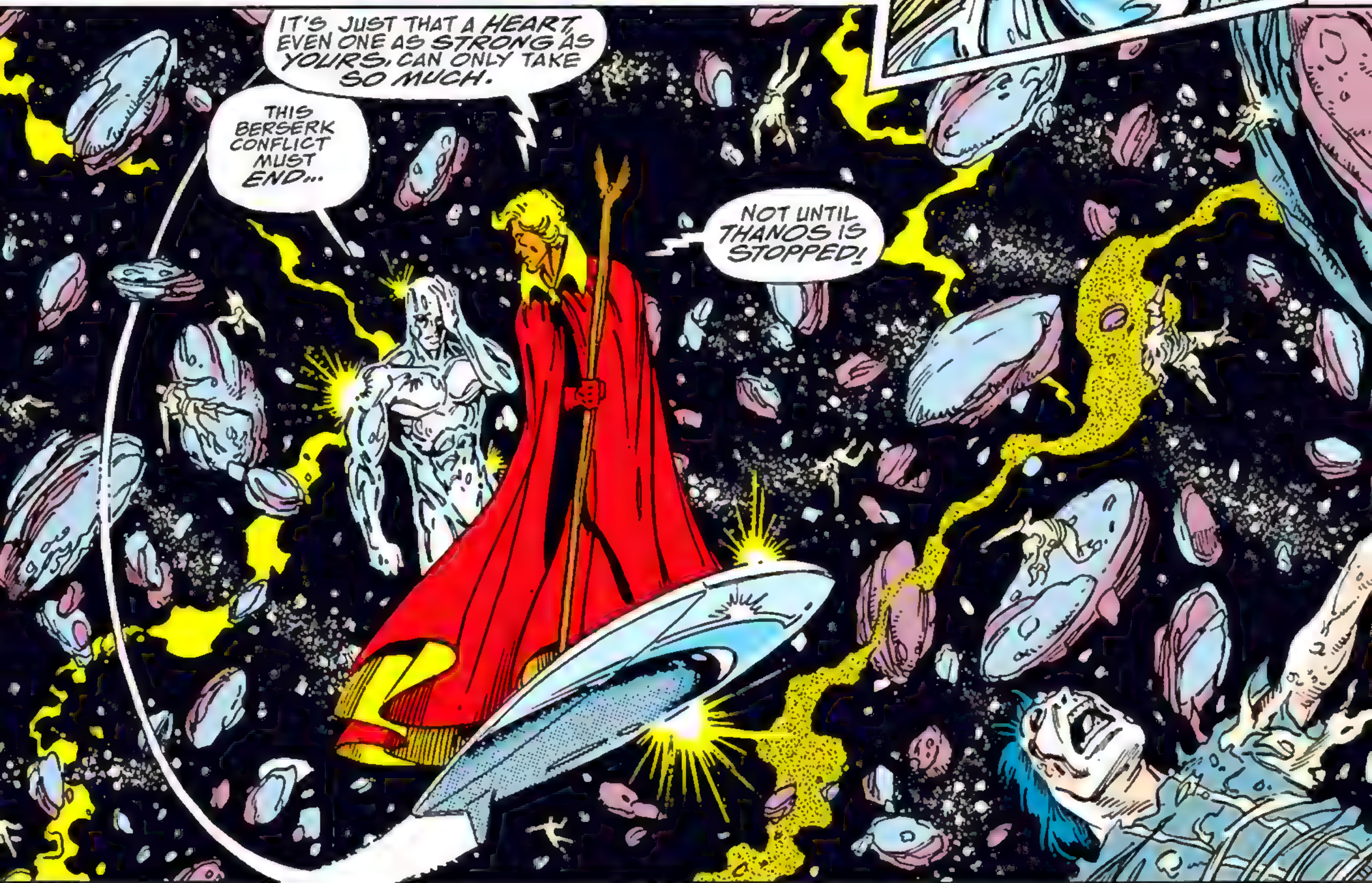


I BELIEVE I'VE HAD  
MORE THAN ENOUGH  
OF YOUR ADVICE,  
WARLOCK.

AS YOU WISH.



BY THE  
STARS!



IT'S JUST THAT A HEART,  
EVEN ONE AS STRONG AS  
YOURS, CAN ONLY TAKE  
SO MUCH.

THIS  
BERSERK  
CONFLICT  
MUST  
END...

NOT UNTIL  
THANOS IS  
STOPPED!



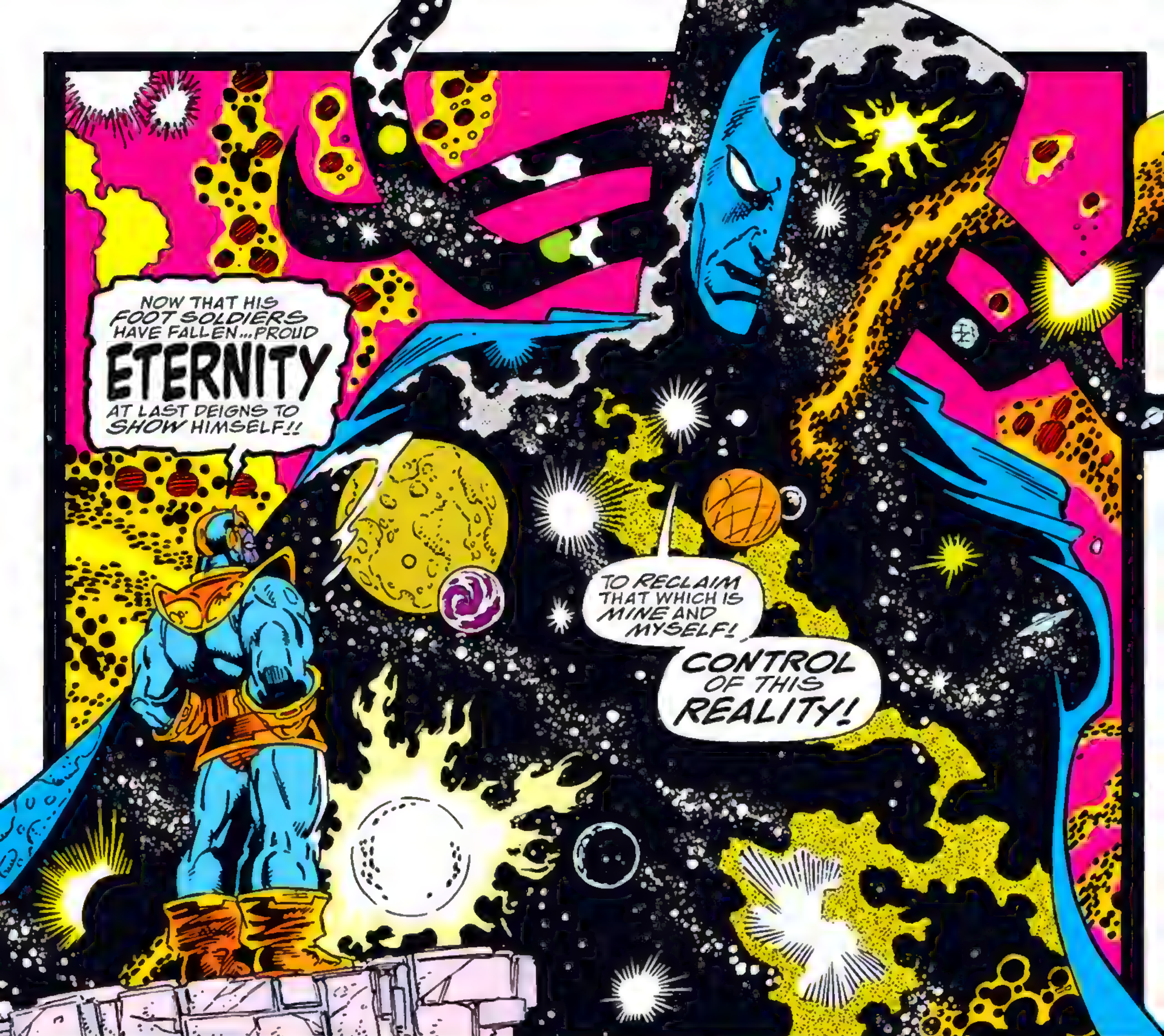
HE IS A  
NIHILIST.

UNLESS HIS REIGN  
TOPPLES, THIS FATE  
AWAITS THE ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE.



I HAVE BEEN  
EXPECTING  
YOU...

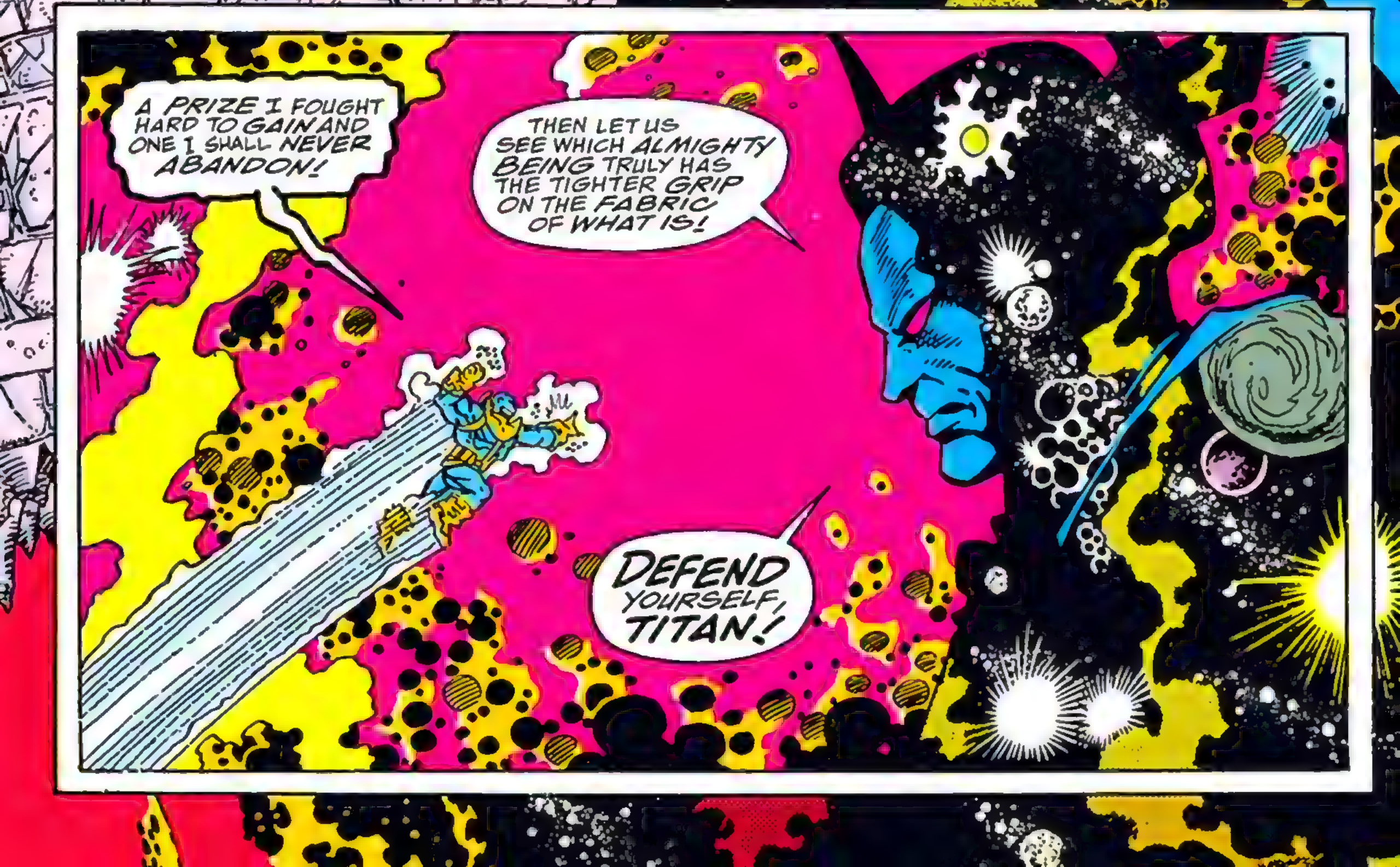




NOW THAT HIS  
FOOT SOLDIERS  
HAVE FALLEN...PROUD  
**ETERNITY**  
AT LAST DEIGNS TO  
SHOW HIMSELF!!

TO RECLAIM  
THAT WHICH IS  
MINE AND  
MYSELF!

CONTROL  
OF THIS  
REALITY!



A PRIZE I FOUGHT  
HARD TO GAIN AND  
ONE I SHALL NEVER  
ABANDON!

THEN LET US  
SEE WHICH ALMIGHTY  
BEING TRULY HAS  
THE TIGHTER GRIP  
ON THE FABRIC  
OF WHAT IS!

DEFEND  
YOURSELF,  
TITAN!





SURELY, THIS  
MUST BE THE  
**END!**



NO, THE OUTCOME OF  
YONDER COSMIC BATTLE  
IS ALREADY  
DECIDED.

HOW CAN YOU  
KNOW THIS?

I AM LINKED TO  
THE INFINITY GEMS  
IN WAYS EVEN I  
DO NOT FULLY  
UNDERSTAND.

THE MASTERY OF ALL  
ACTUALITY IS NOW  
FIRMLY IN THE GRASP  
OF ONE INDI-  
VIDUAL.

THANOS OR  
ETERNITY?!  
WHO PREVAILED?

ONE WHO  
ONLY LOSES WHEN  
HIS SUBCONSCIOUS  
DESIRES BETRAY HIM.

YOU  
MEAN...

I DO.

AND IN THAT  
SLIM HOPE  
DOES SURVIVAL  
LAY-

MORE  
RIDDLES,  
WARLOCK??

IS SPEAKING  
PLAINLY  
BEYOND YOUR  
ABILITY?!

PERHAPS.

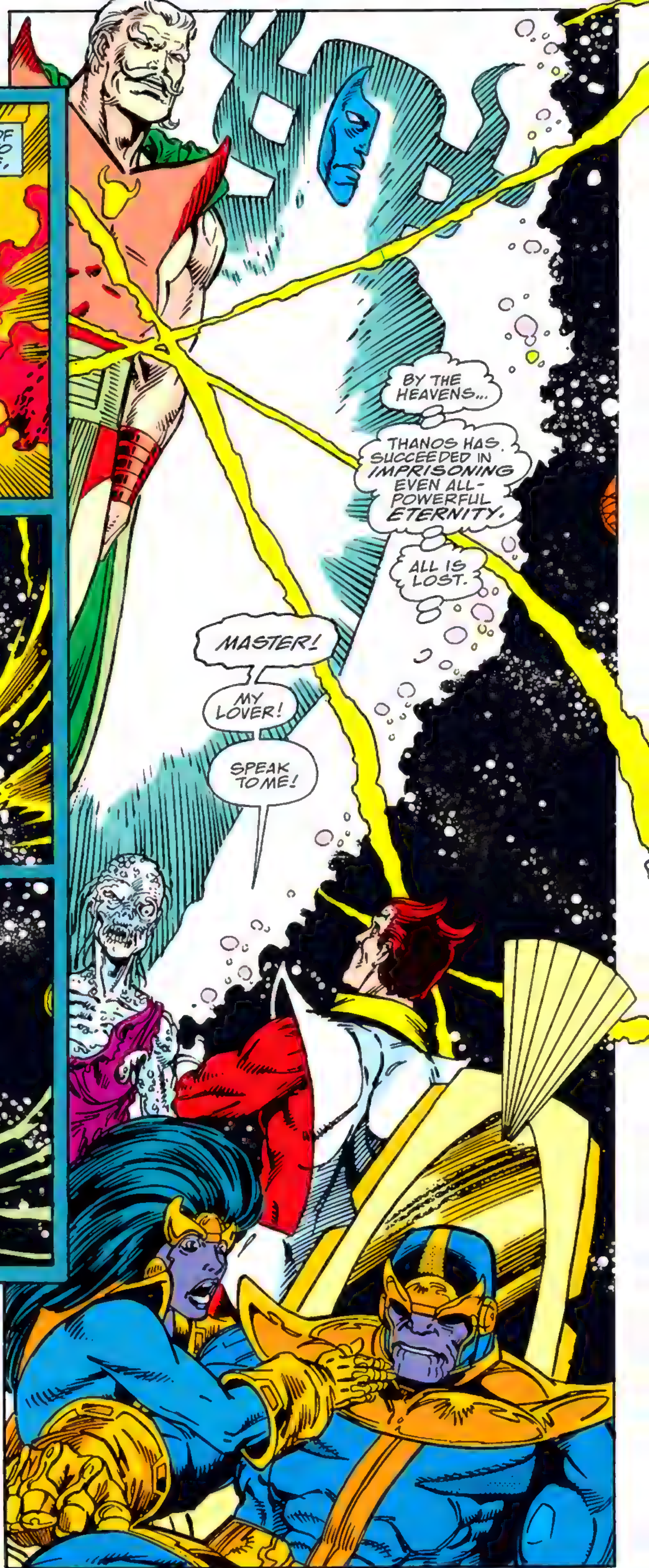
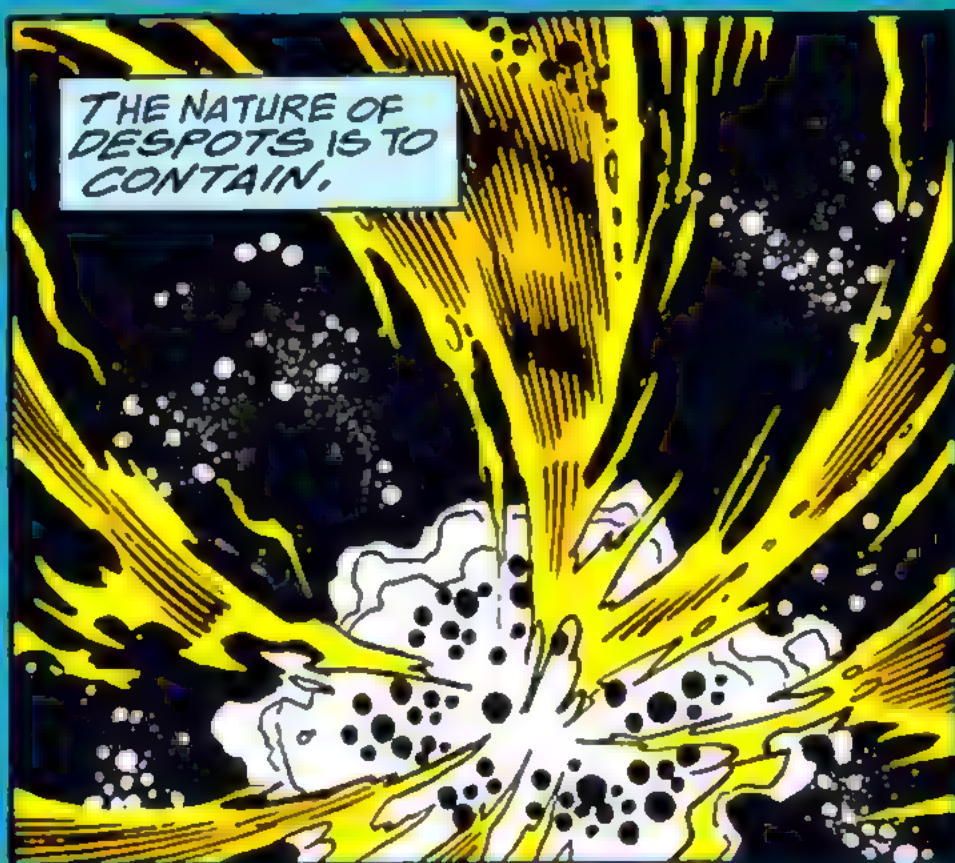
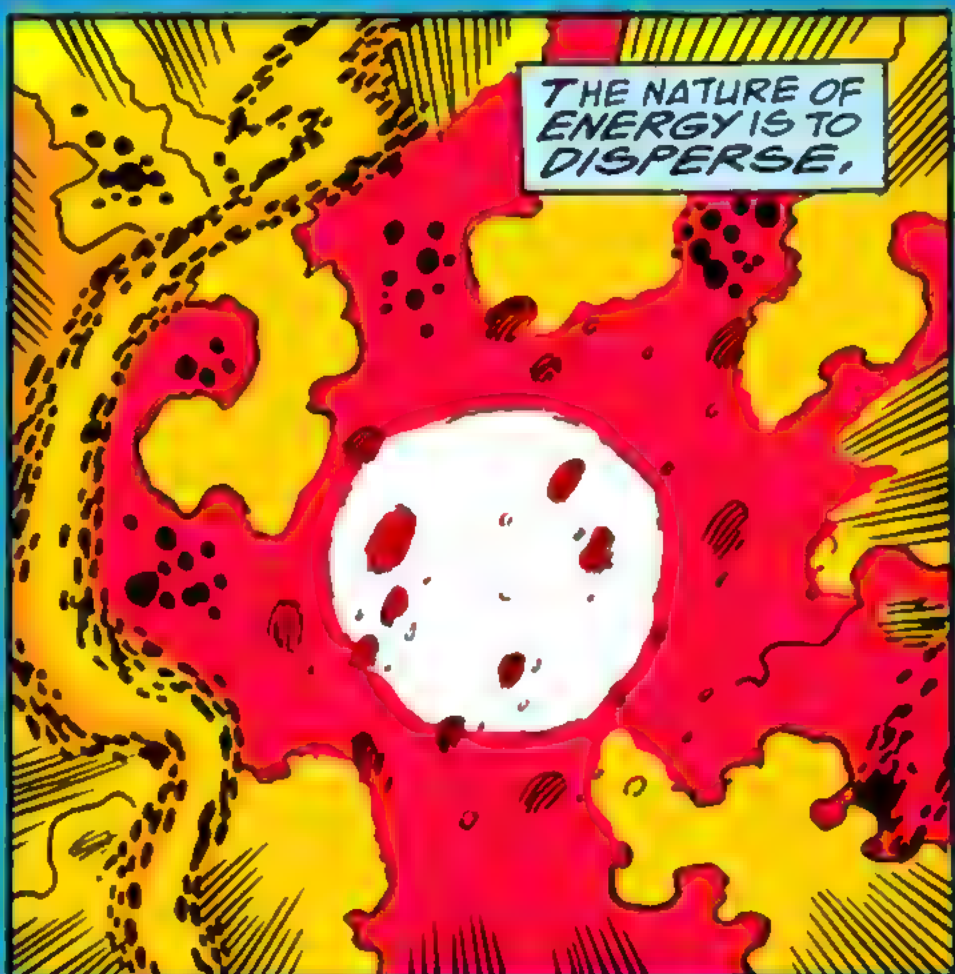
DR.  
STRANGE,  
RETRIEVAL  
IS IN  
ORDER!

HOW GOES  
THE  
STRUGGLE?

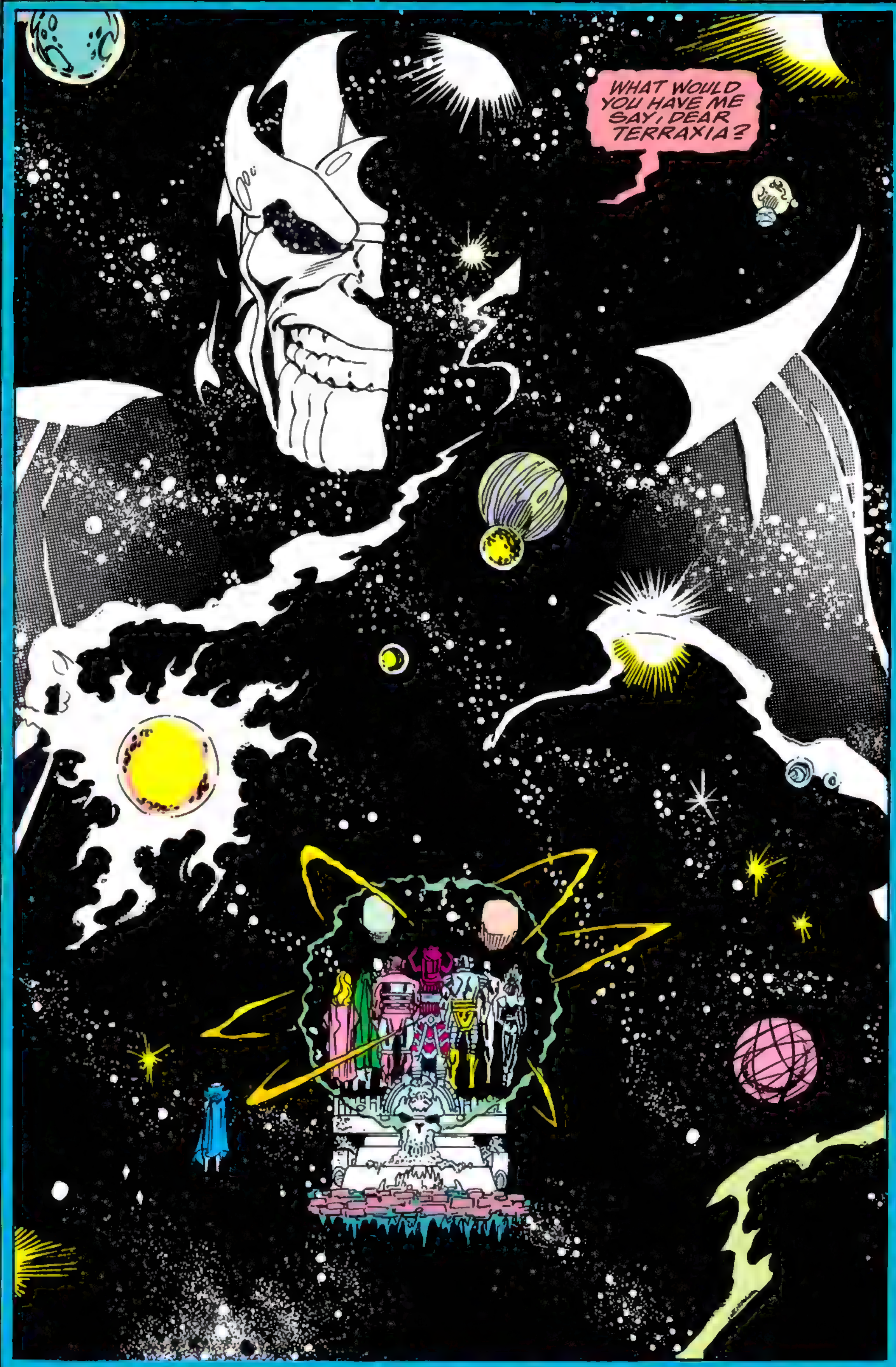
POORLY.

HORRENDOUSLY.



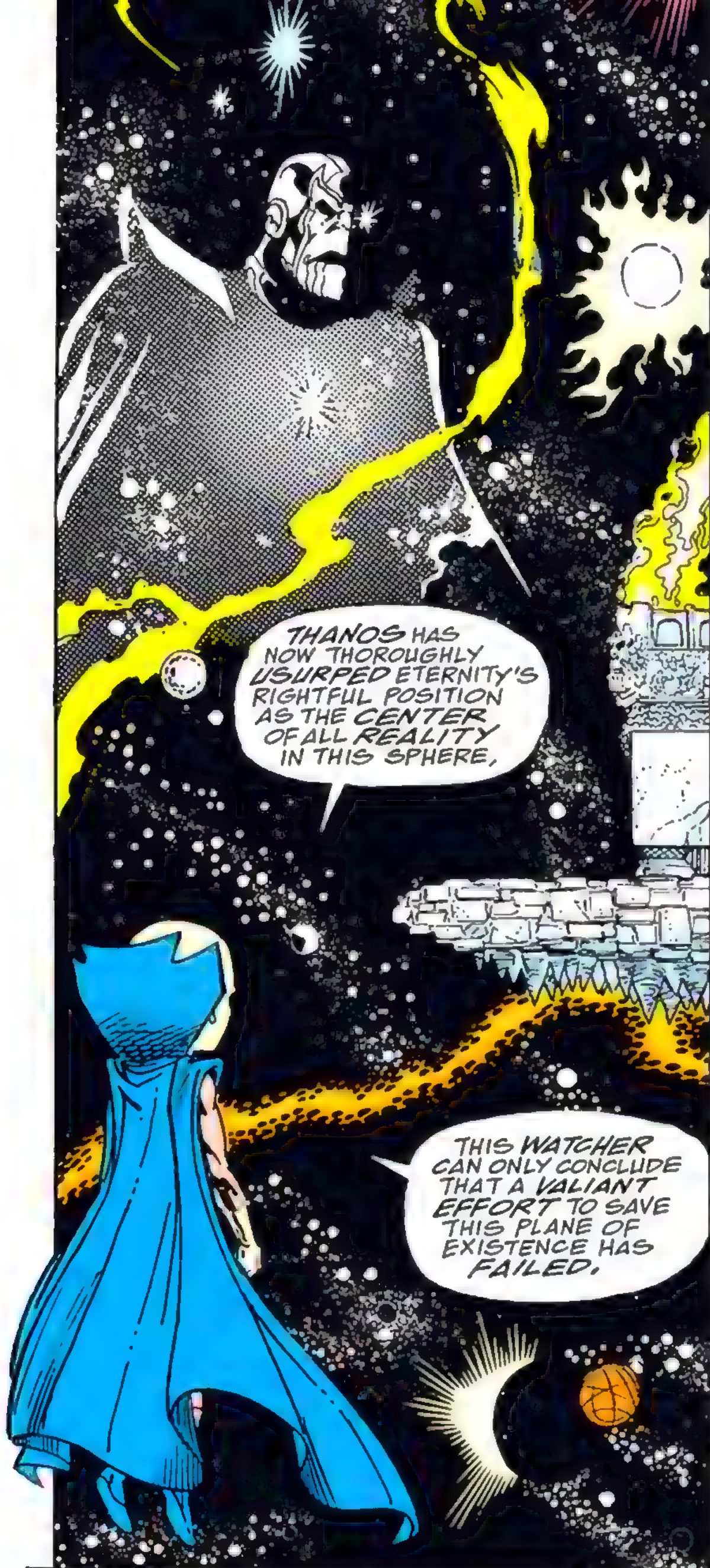






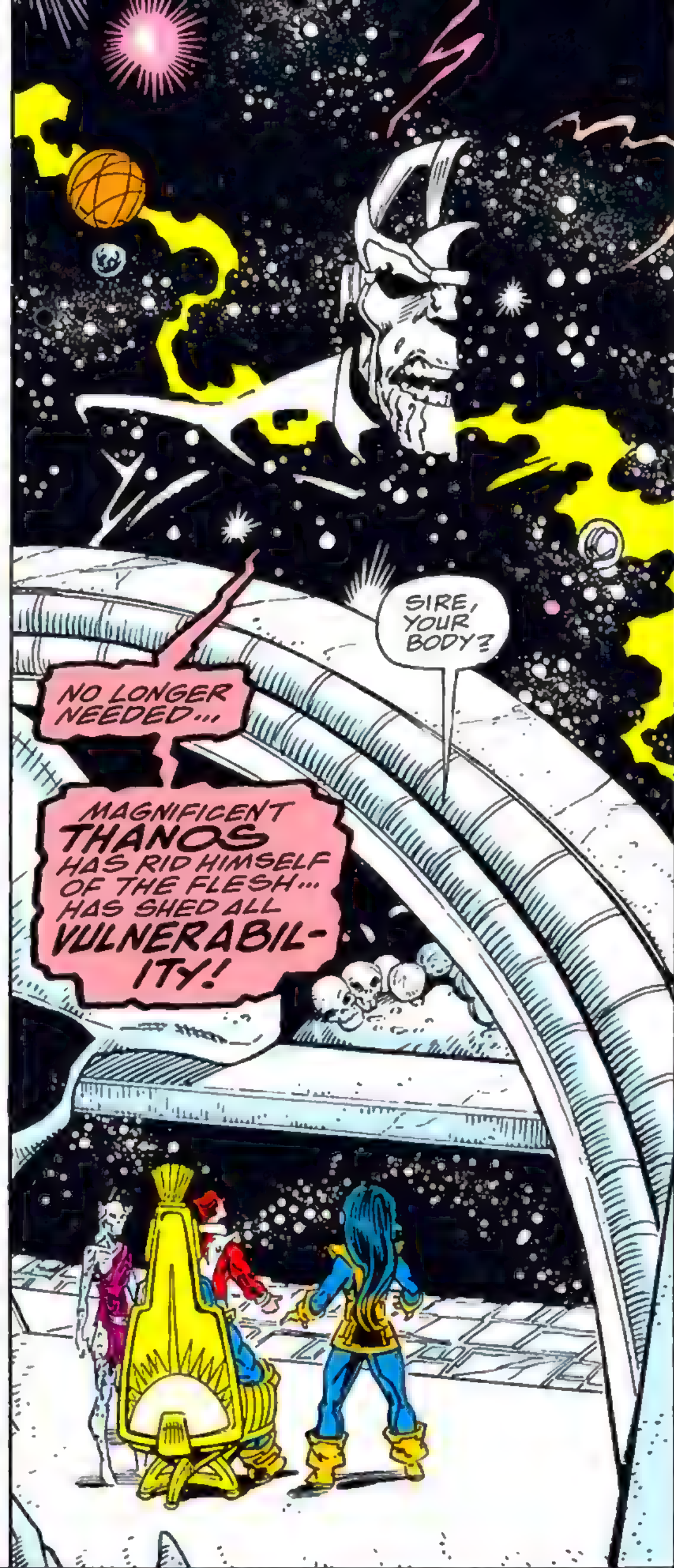
WHAT WOULD  
YOU HAVE ME  
SAY, DEAR  
TERRAXIA?





THANOS HAS NOW THOROUGHLY USURPED ETERNITY'S RIGHTFUL POSITION AS THE CENTER OF ALL REALITY IN THIS SPHERE,

THIS WATCHER CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT A VALIANT EFFORT TO SAVE THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE HAS FAILED.

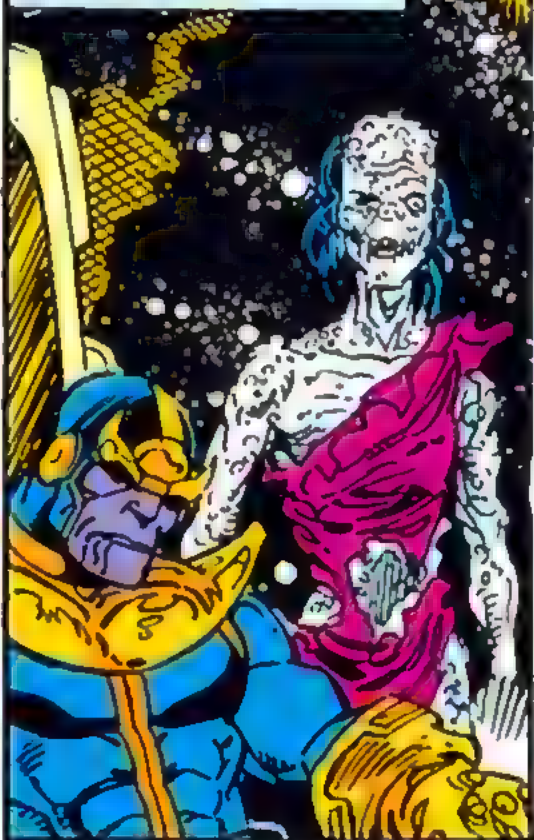


SIRE, YOUR BODY?

NO LONGER NEEDED...

MAGNIFICENT THANOS HAS RID HIMSELF OF THE FLESH... HAS SHED ALL VULNERABILITY!

AS HE DID ONCE BEFORE WHEN IN POSSESSION OF THE COSMIC CUBE.



THEN AS NOW, THANOS UNDERESTIMATED THE STRENGTH OF THE FLESH.



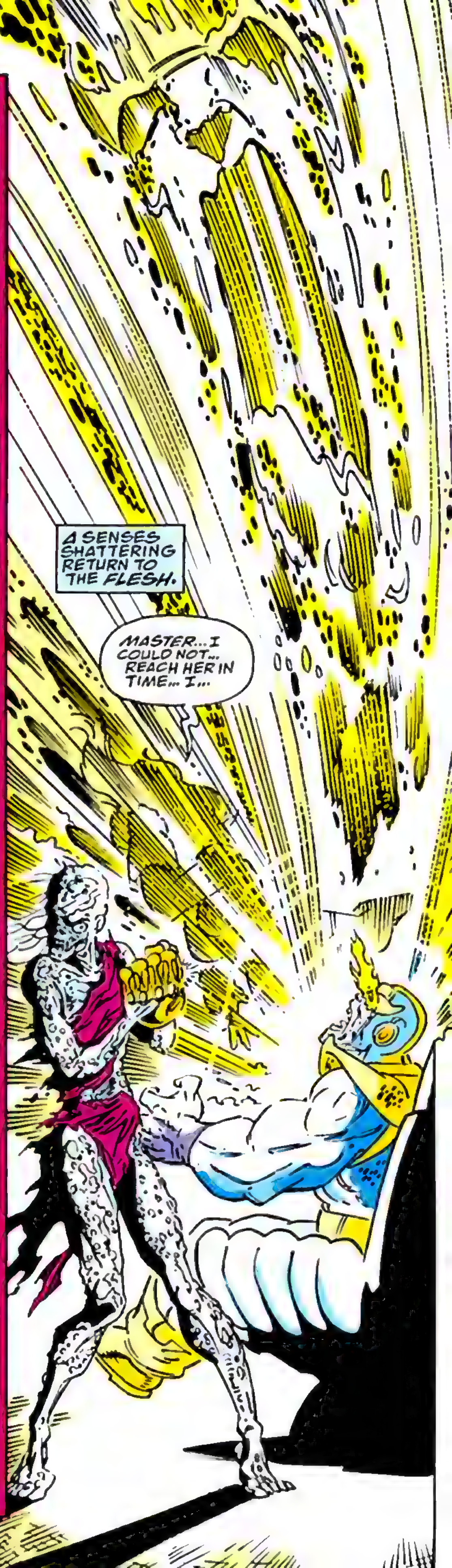
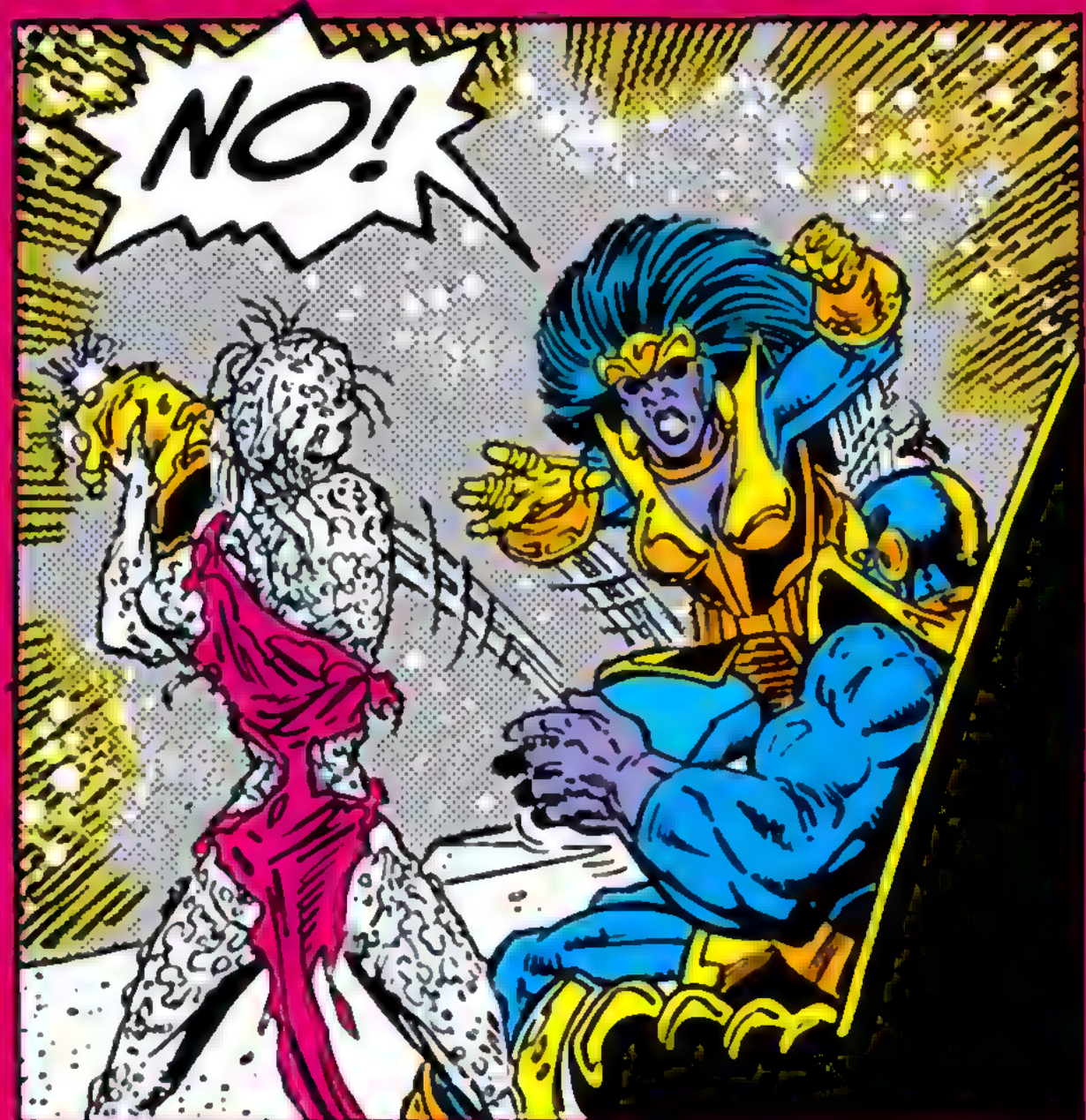
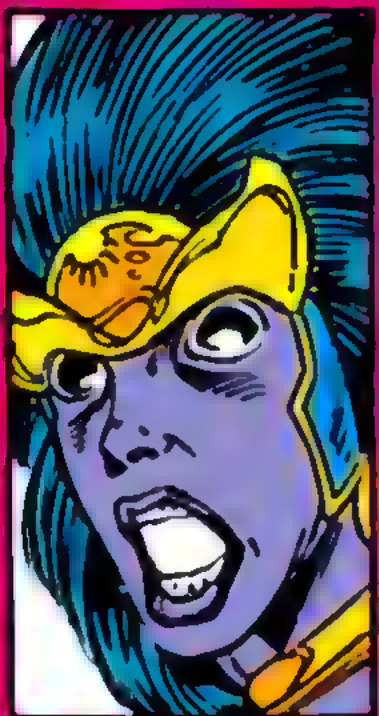
ESPECIALLY CHARRED FLESH, SPURRED ON BY HATRED.



DEEP WITHIN WITHERED NEBULA, VENGEANCE STIRS.







A SENSES  
SHATTERING  
RETURN TO  
THE FLESH.

MASTER... I  
COULD NOT...  
REACH HER IN  
TIME... I...





AND A REVERSAL OF  
DIRE FORTUNES.

NEBULA  
STEPS AWAY  
FROM THE EDGE  
OF OBLIVION!!

THE MANTLE OF PROVIDENCE  
RESTS NOW ON NEW SHOULDERS!

MY EVERY WISH IS BUT  
AN LIRGE AWAY!



AND YOU KNOW  
WHAT I YEARN  
FOR, DEAR  
THANOS?

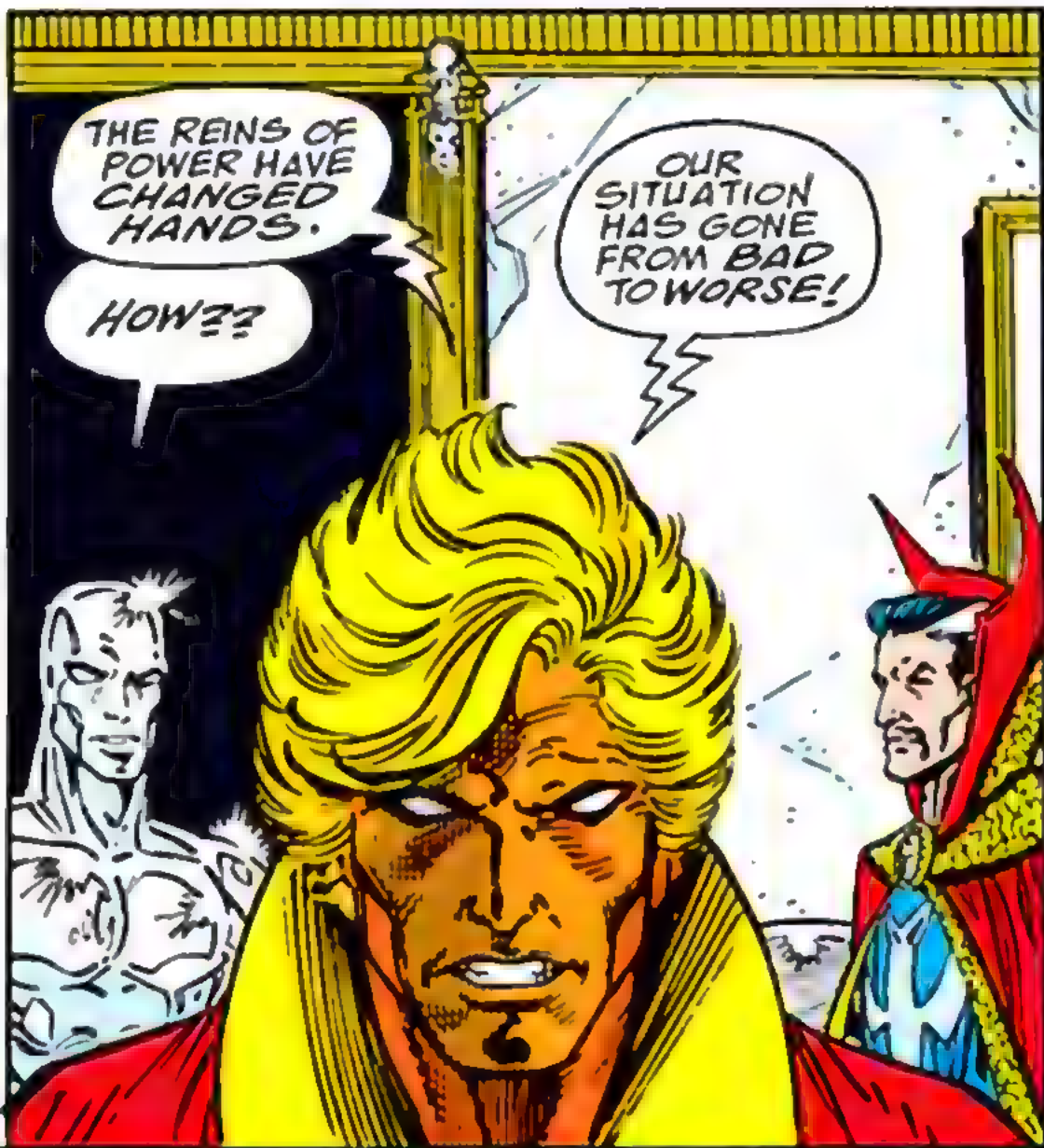


REVENGE!

MASTER!







THE REINS OF  
POWER HAVE  
CHANGED  
HANDS.

HOW??

OUR  
SITUATION  
HAS GONE  
FROM BAD  
TO WORSE!



THE NEWLY-CHRISTENED  
ALL-MIGHTY IS DERANGED  
FROM MONTHS OF PAIN  
AND ANGUISH.

STRANGE, I  
HAVE NEED OF  
YOUR MYSTIC  
TALENTS,

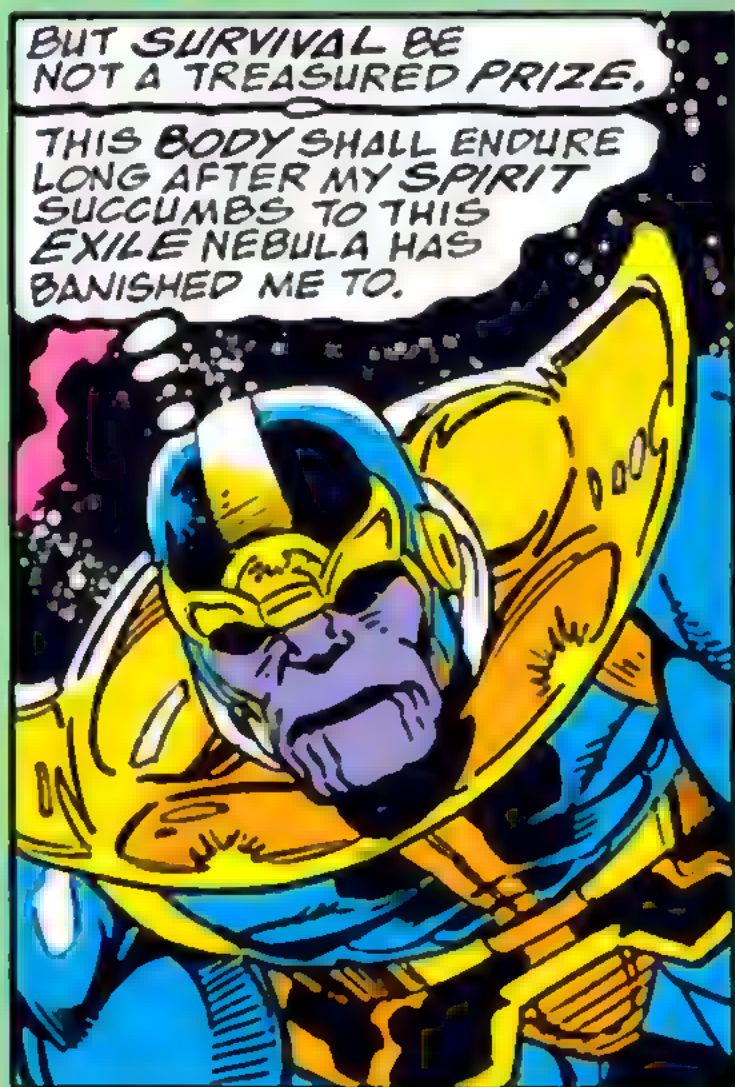
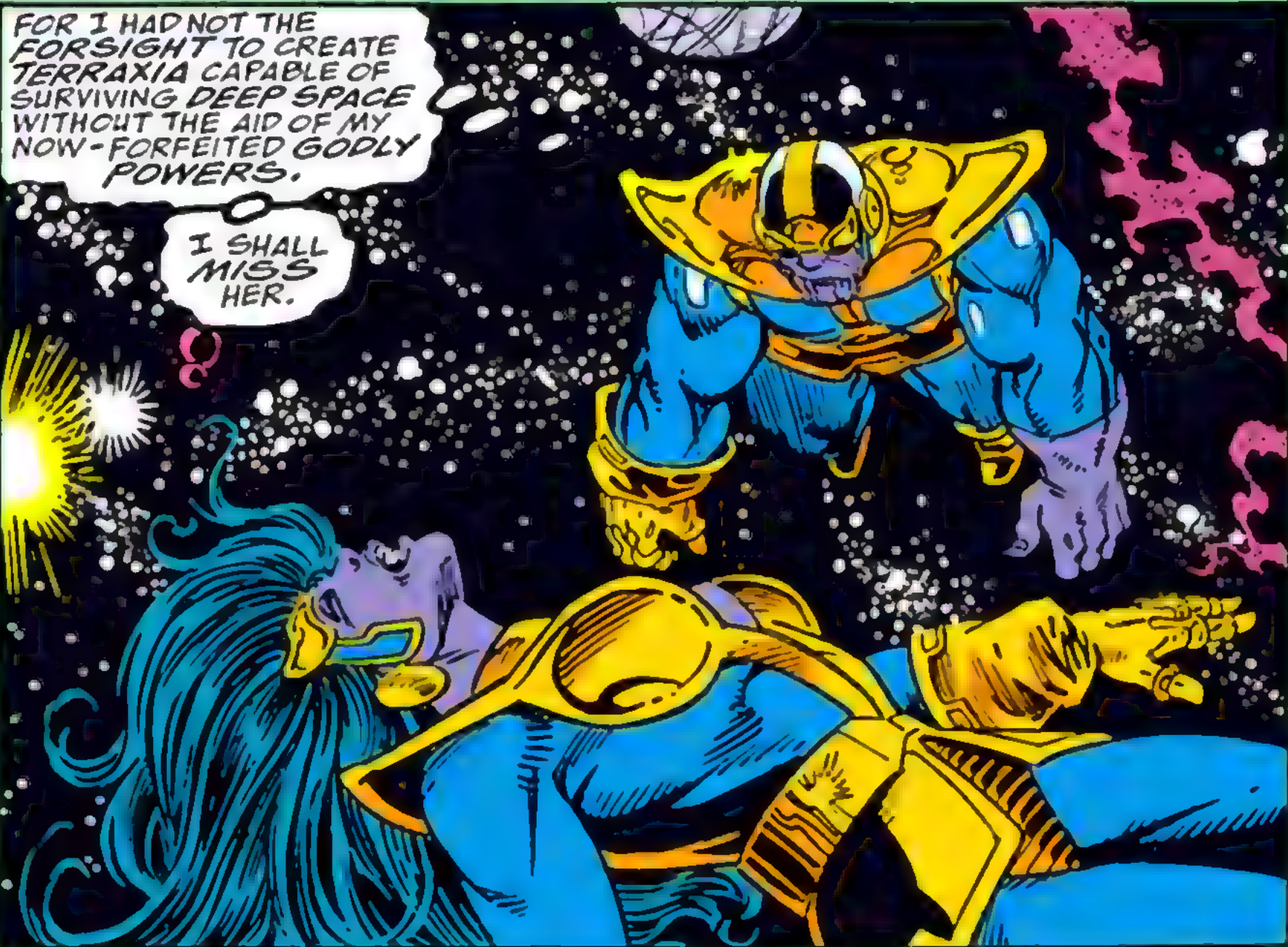


TRAPPED.

AND ALONE.

FOR I HAD NOT THE  
FORSIGHT TO CREATE  
TERRAXIA CAPABLE OF  
SURVIVING DEEP SPACE  
WITHOUT THE AID OF MY  
NOW-FORFEITED GODLY  
POWERS.

I SHALL  
MISS  
HER.



BUT SURVIVAL BE  
NOT A TREASURED PRIZE.

THIS BODY SHALL ENDURE  
LONG AFTER MY SPIRIT  
SUCCUMBS TO THIS  
EXILE NEBULA HAS  
BANISHED ME TO.



AN ETERNITY OF DRIFTING  
HELPLESSLY IN SPACE.

AN INFINITY TO  
MULL ON MY SINS  
AND FOLLIES.

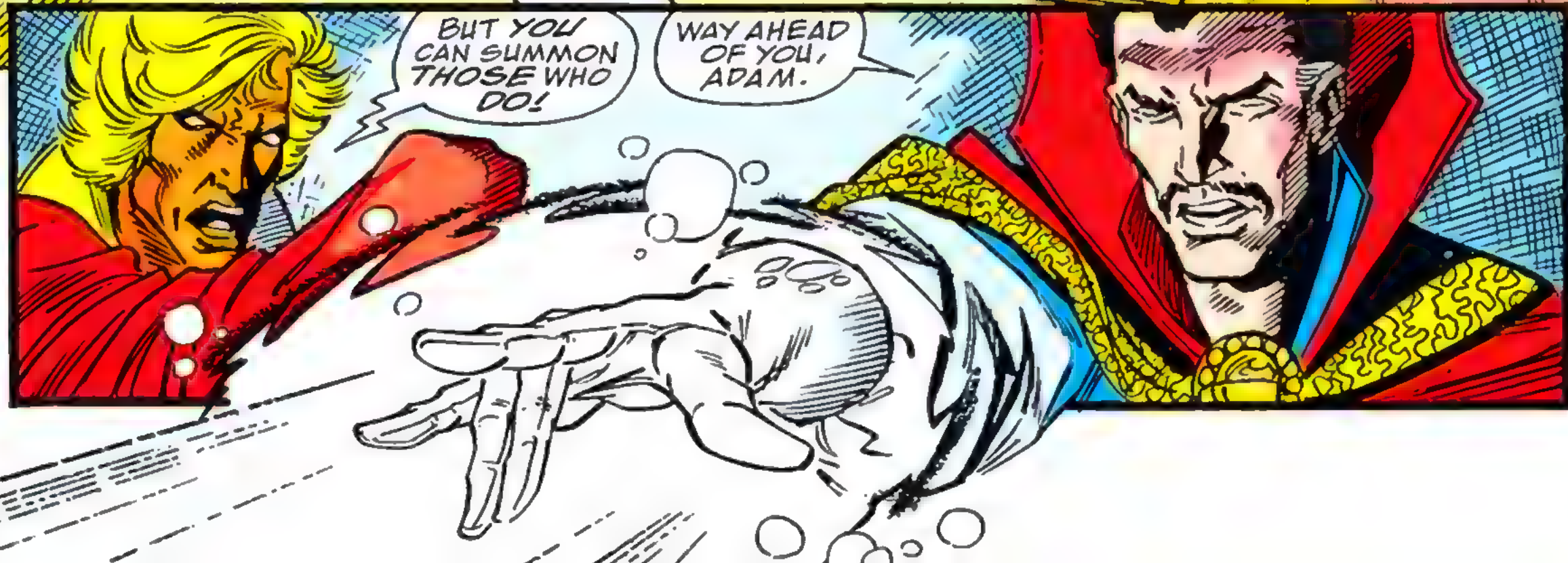
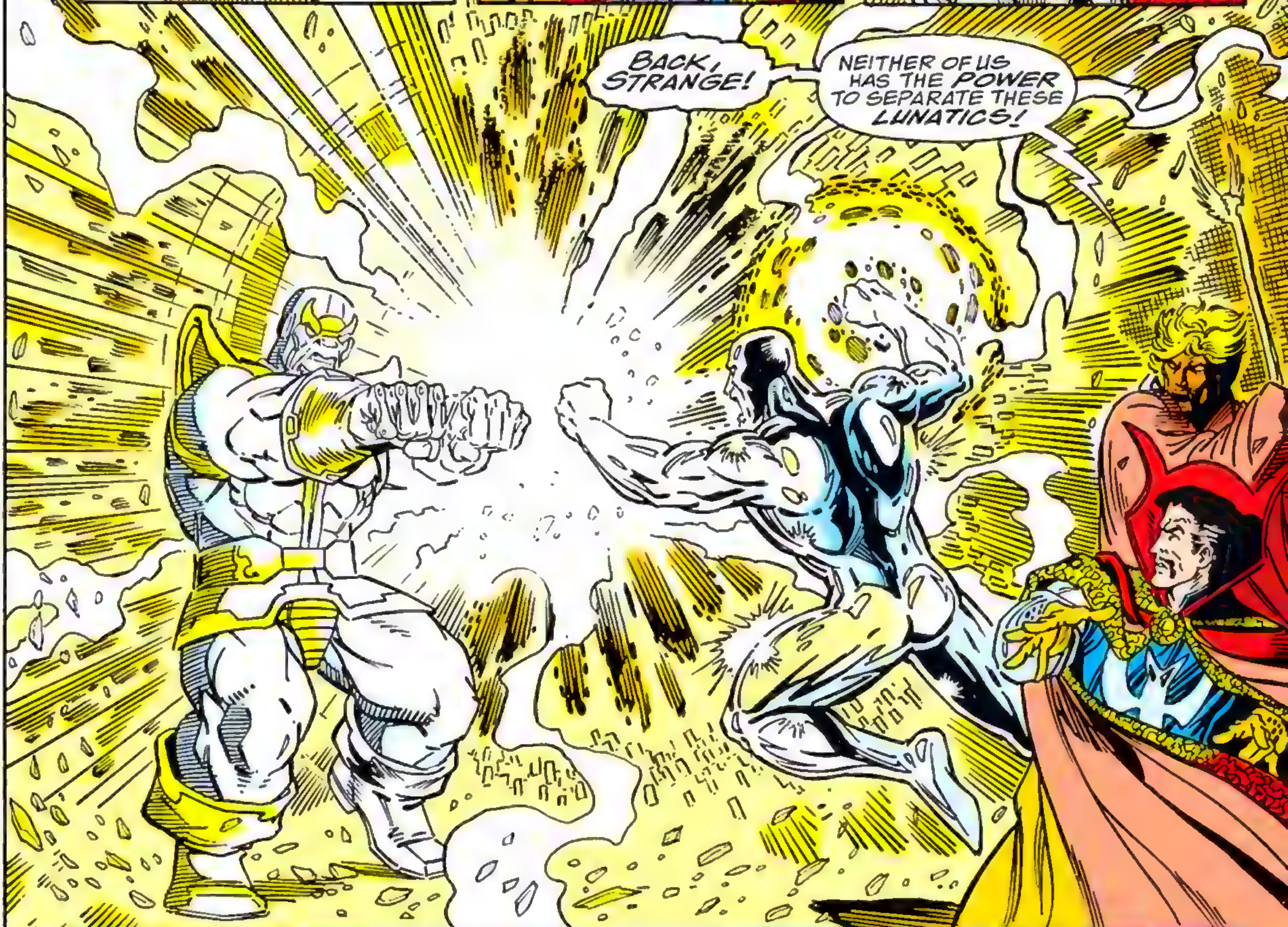
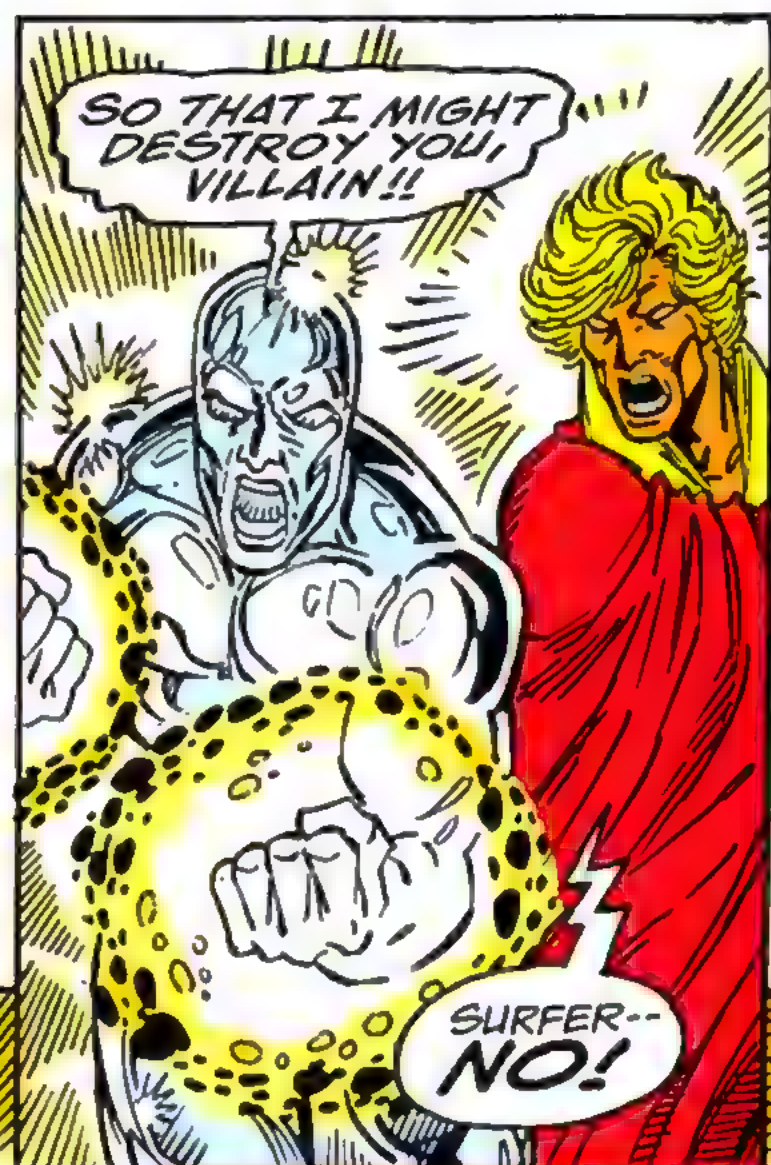
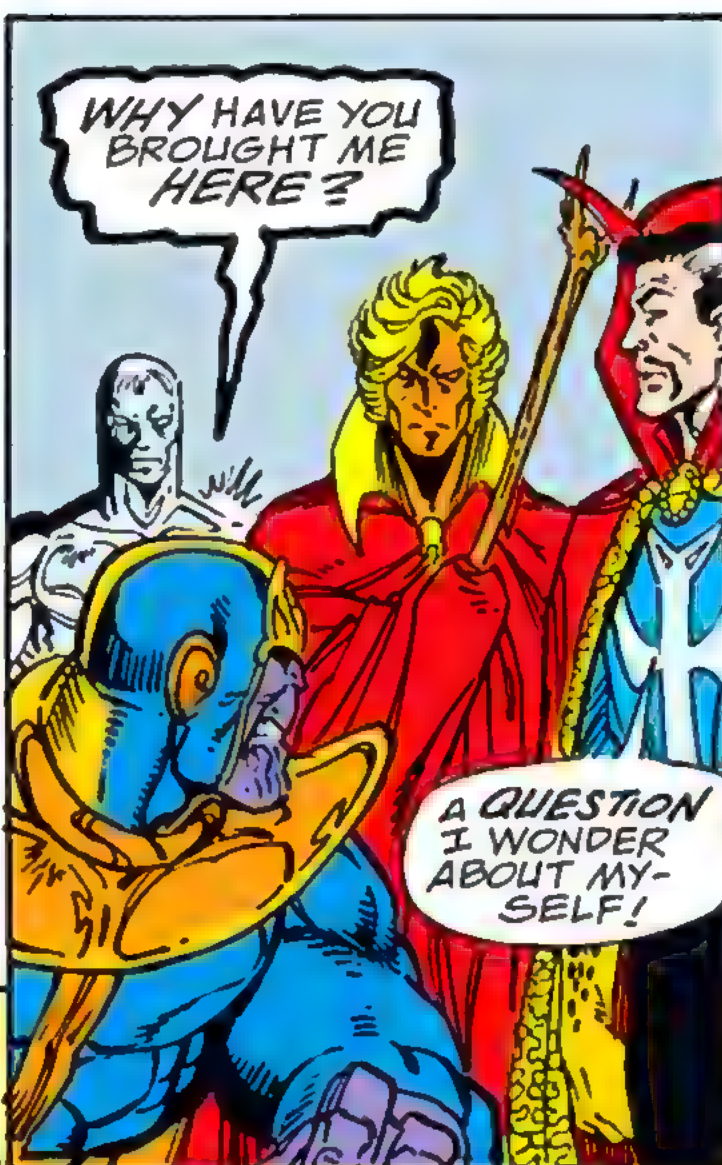


WHAT?

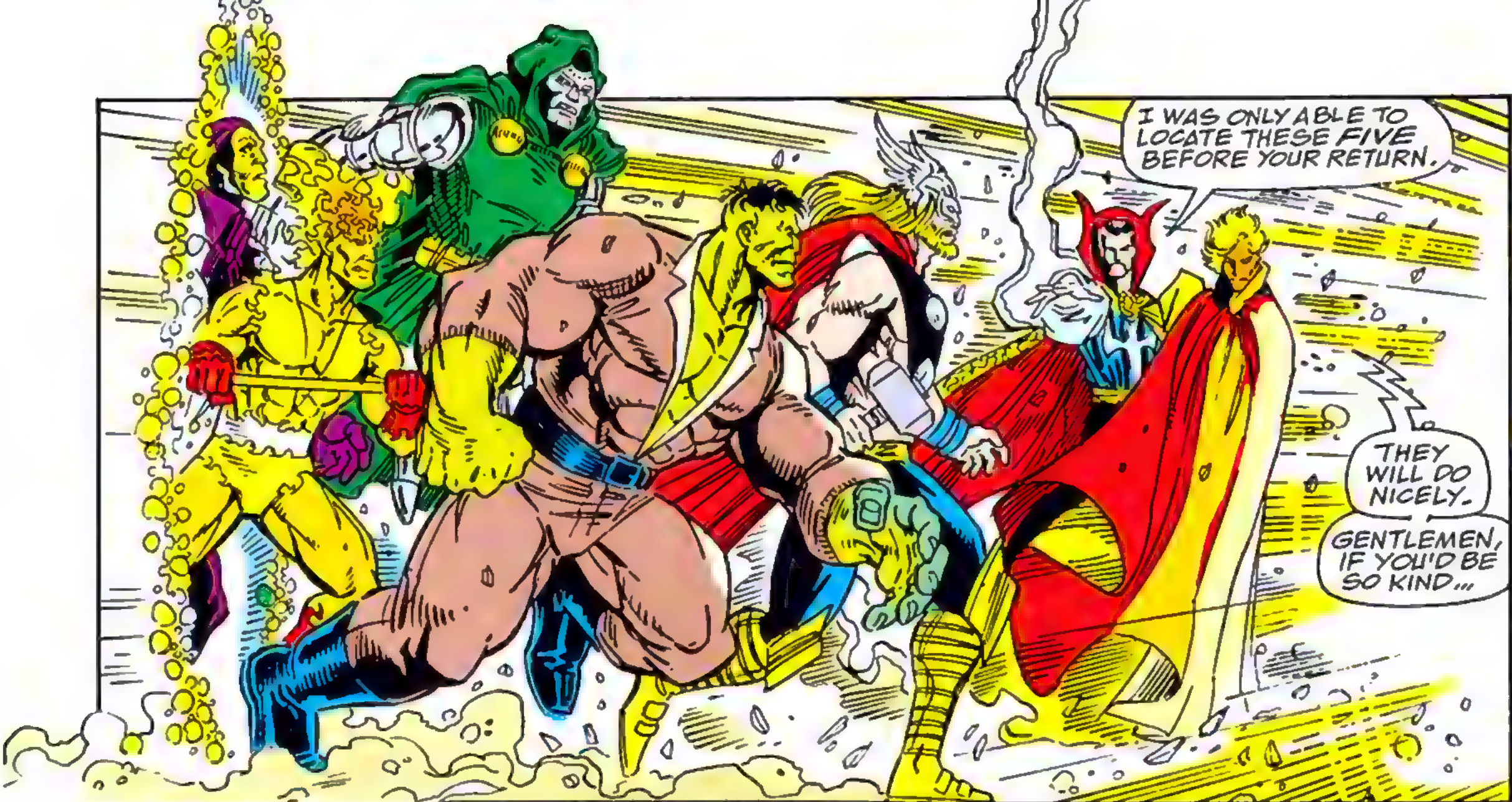
A MYSTIC  
PORTAL.

WHO?









I WAS ONLY ABLE TO LOCATE THESE FIVE BEFORE YOUR RETURN.

THEY WILL DO NICELY.

GENTLEMEN, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND...

NOW IF YOU TWO ARE QUITE THROUGH, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HOW WE MIGHT YET SAVE THIS UNIVERSE FROM DESTRUCTION!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHERE IT'S HEADED WITH NEBULA IN CONTROL OF THE GEMS.

HER INTELLECT IS NOT UP TO GODHOOD!

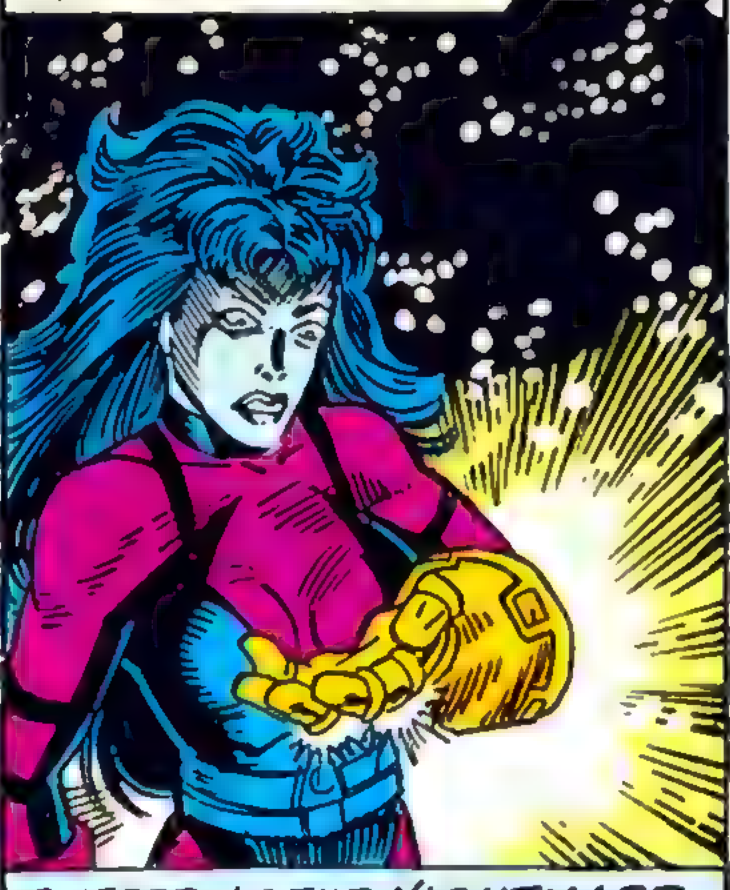
SUDDEN OMNIPOTENCE WOULD BE A CRUSHING LOAD FOR EVEN THE FINEST MIND.

TOTAL CONFUSION REIGNS AS SHE STRIVES TO ADJUST TO THE DELUGE OF UNIVERSAL SENSORY INPUT.

MOST CERTAINLY THE THOUGHT OF ESCAPING INTO CATATONIC OBLIVION ENTERS HER CHAOTIC SOUL.



FOR NEBULA'S SCARRED PSYCHE IT MUST BE OVERWHELMING.

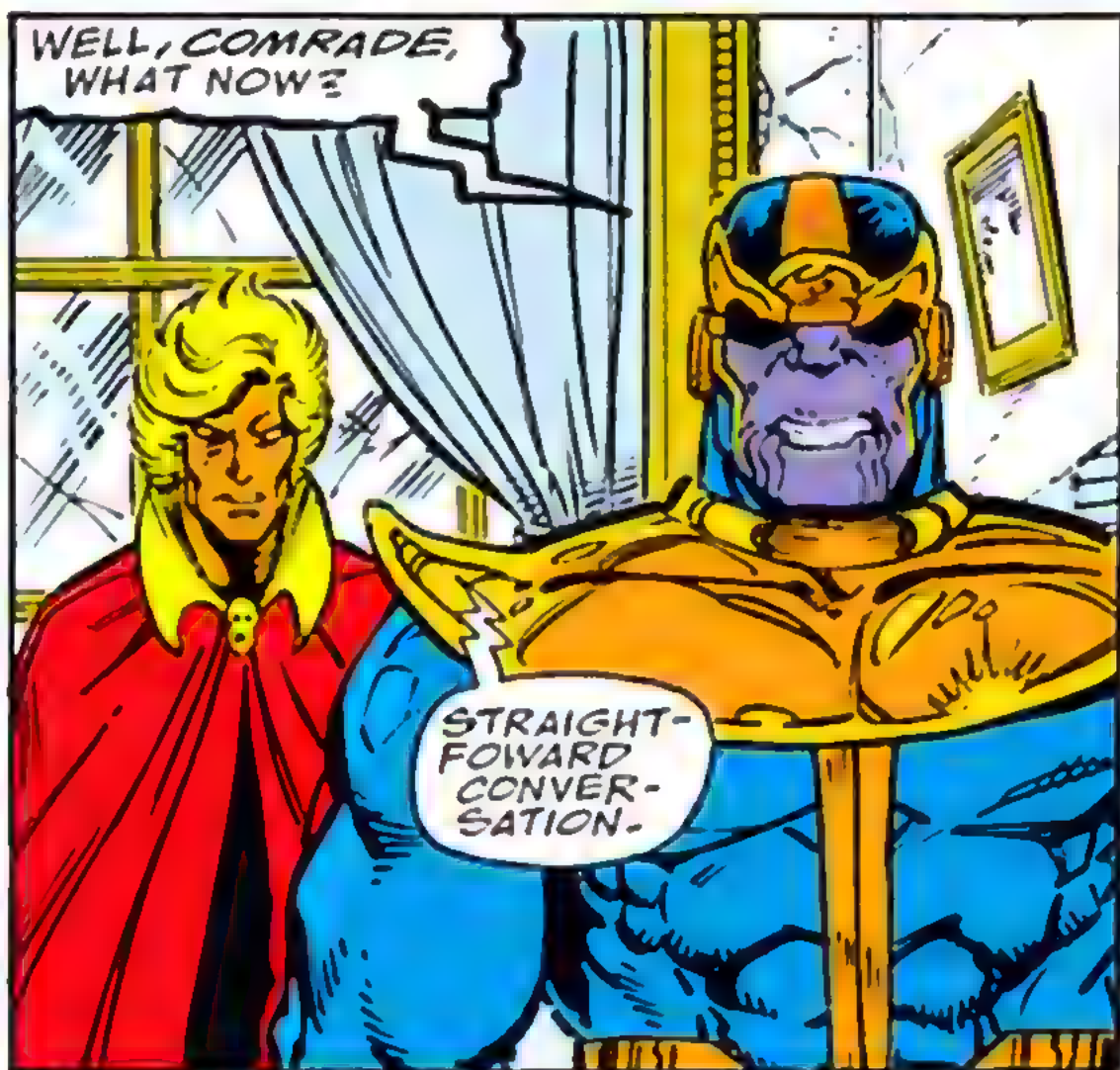
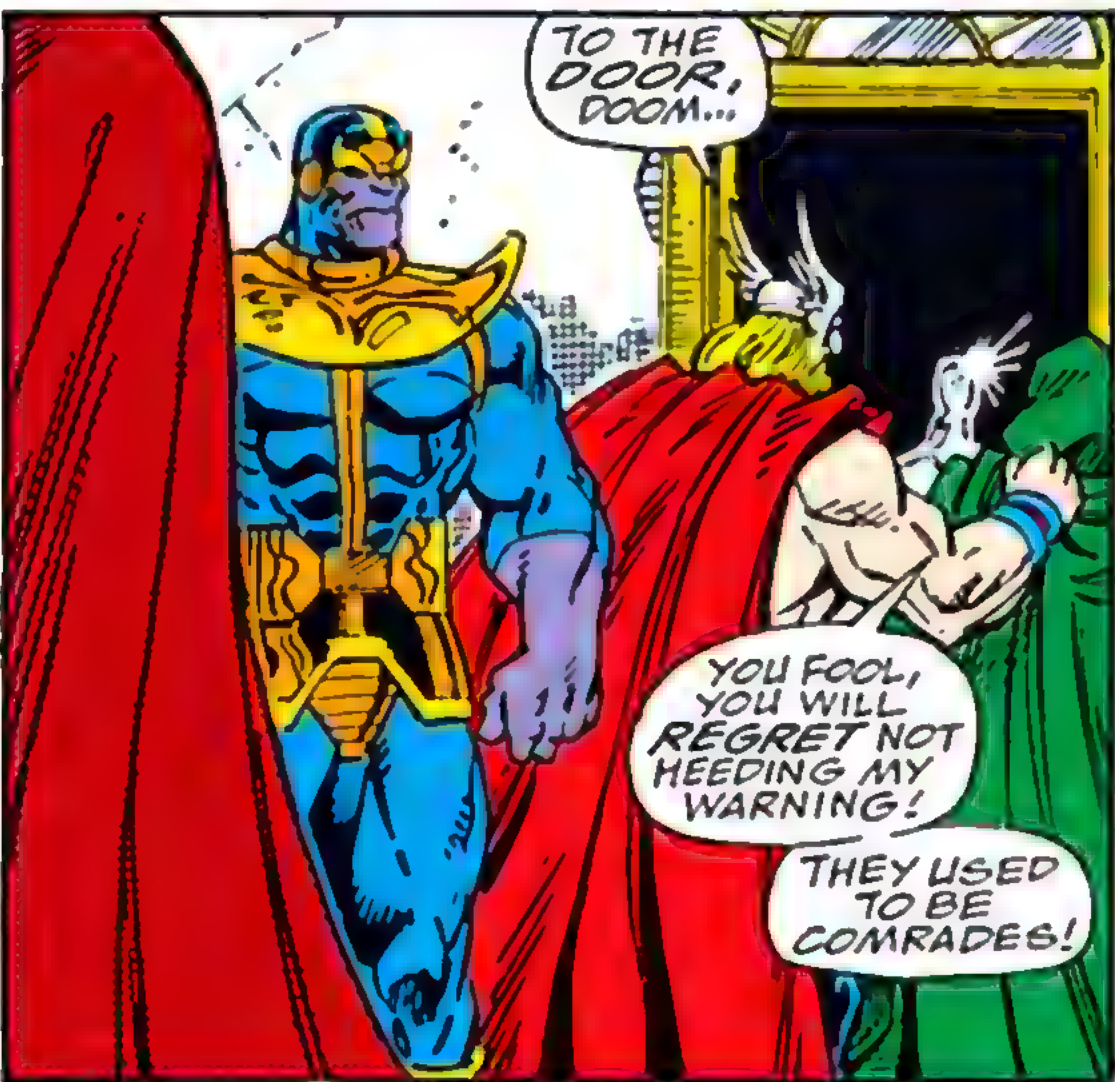
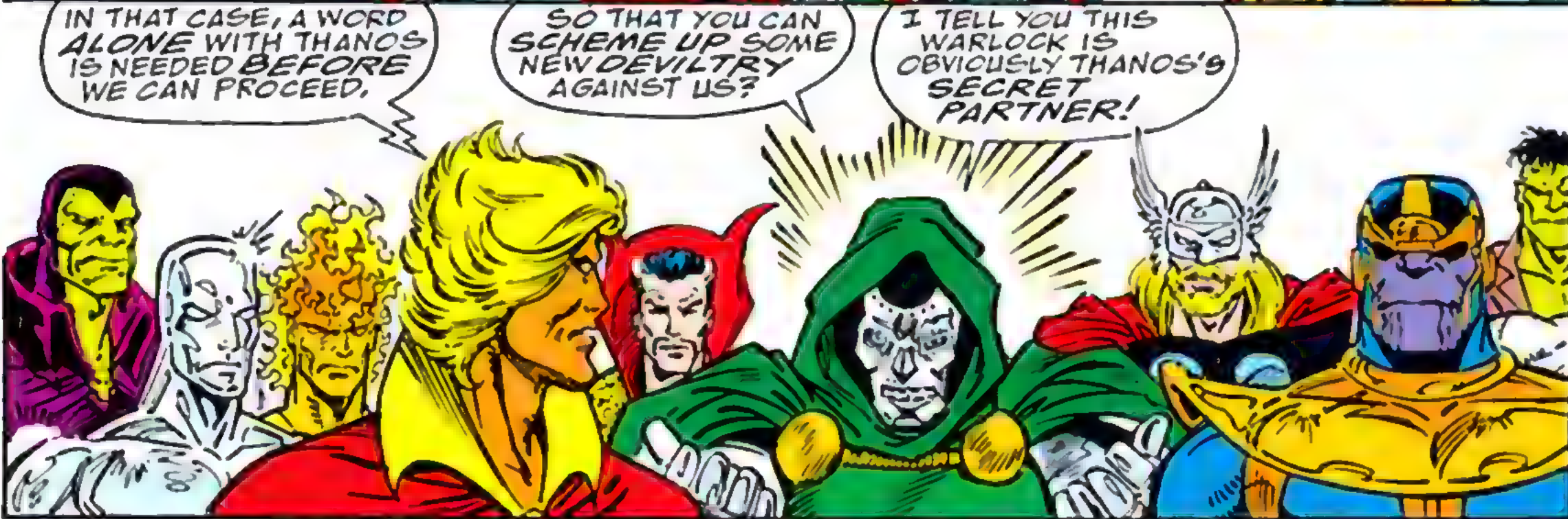
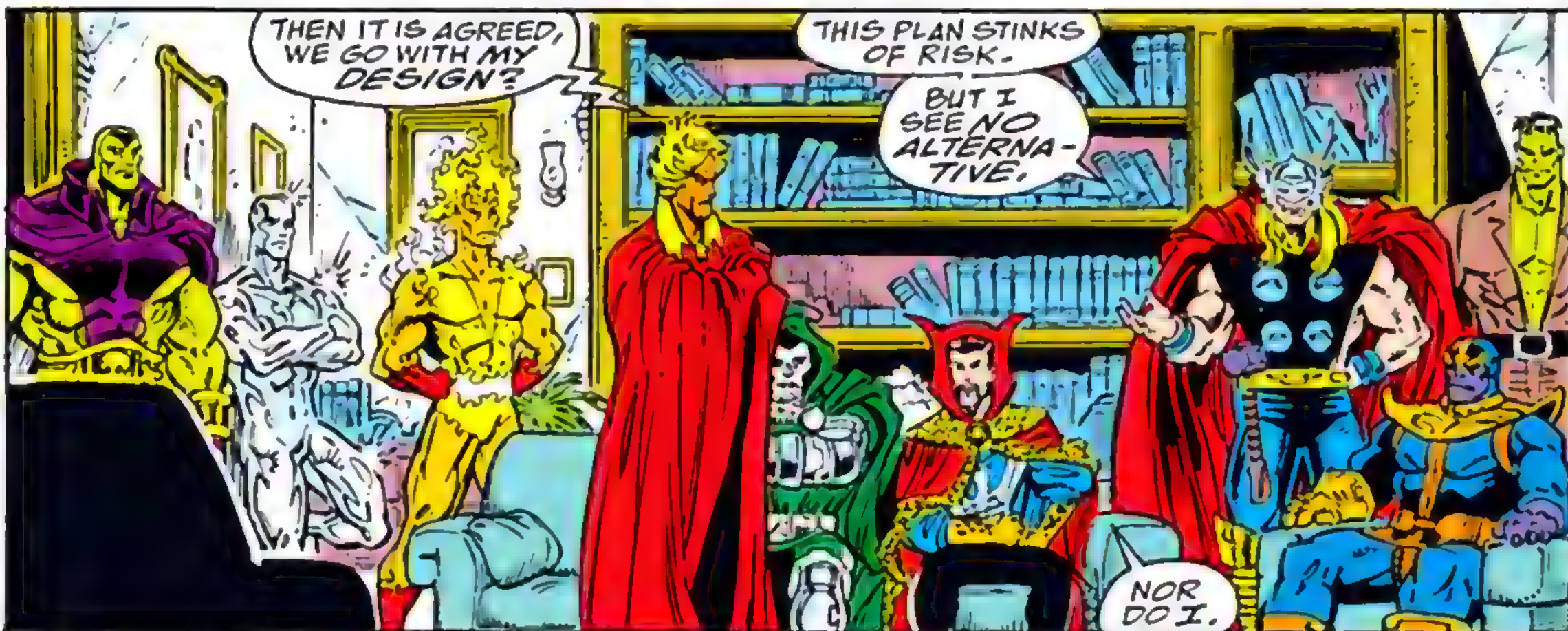
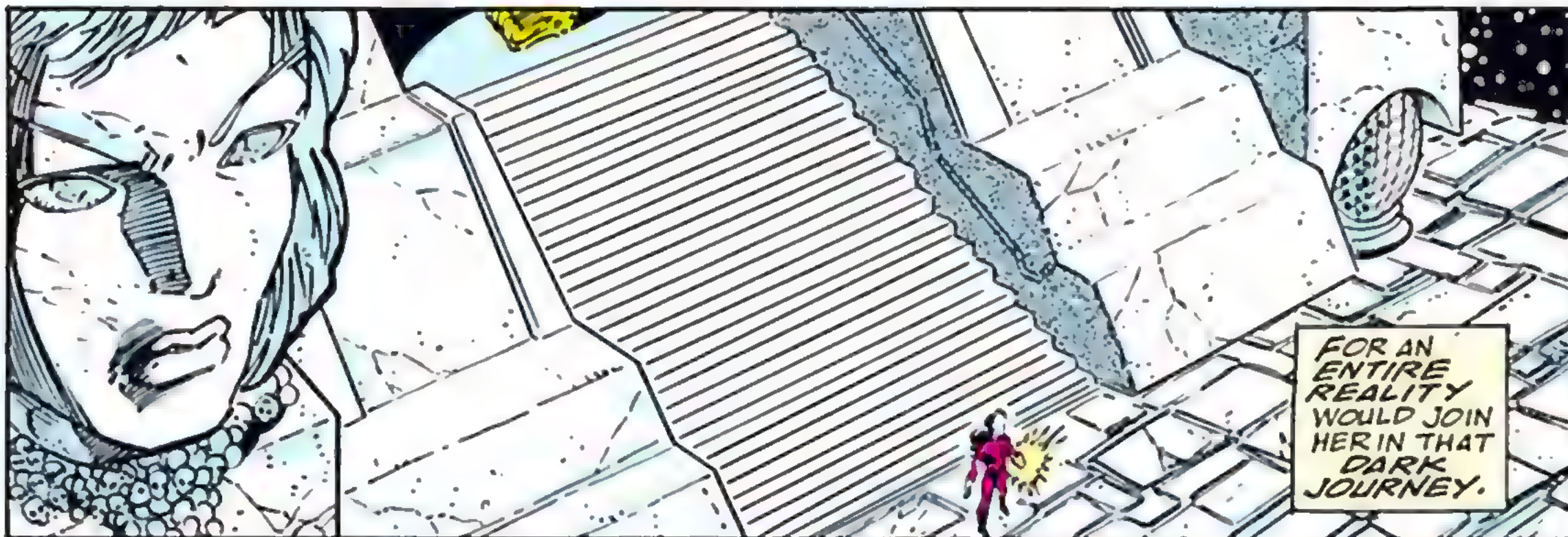


SUFFERING THE NIGHTMARE OF ABRUPTLY BECOMING AWARE OF ALL LIFE AND MATTER.

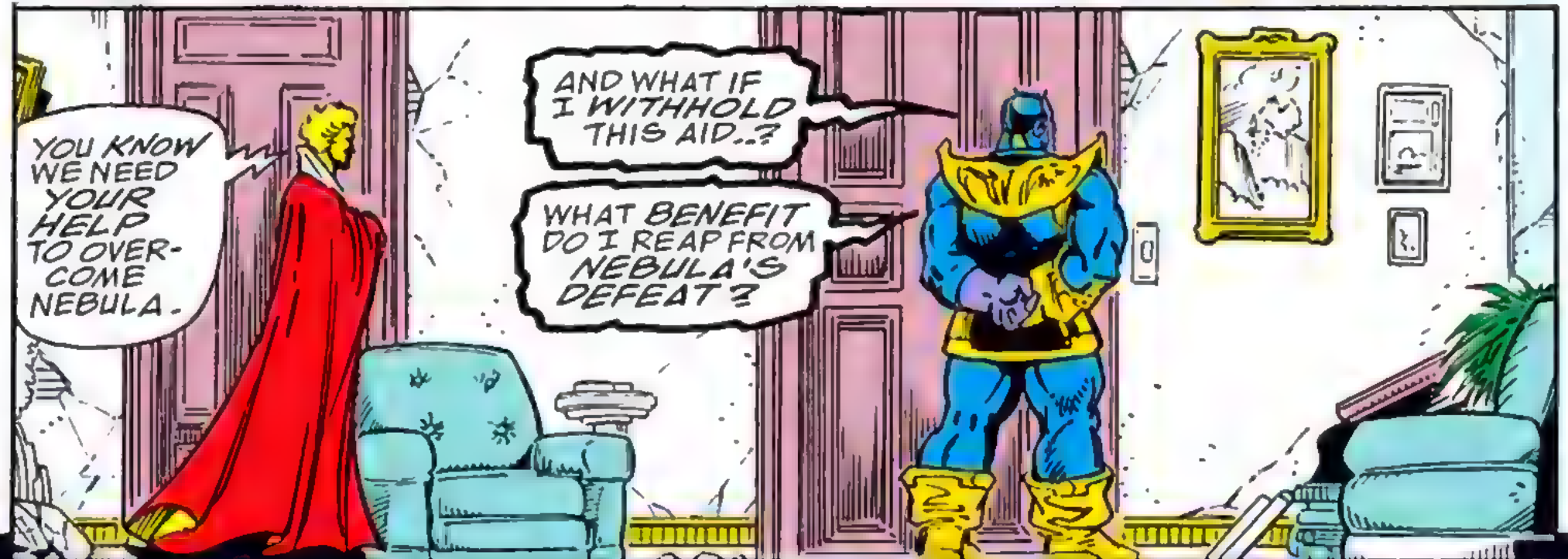


PRAY THAT SHE DOES NOT SURRENDER TO THE URGE.





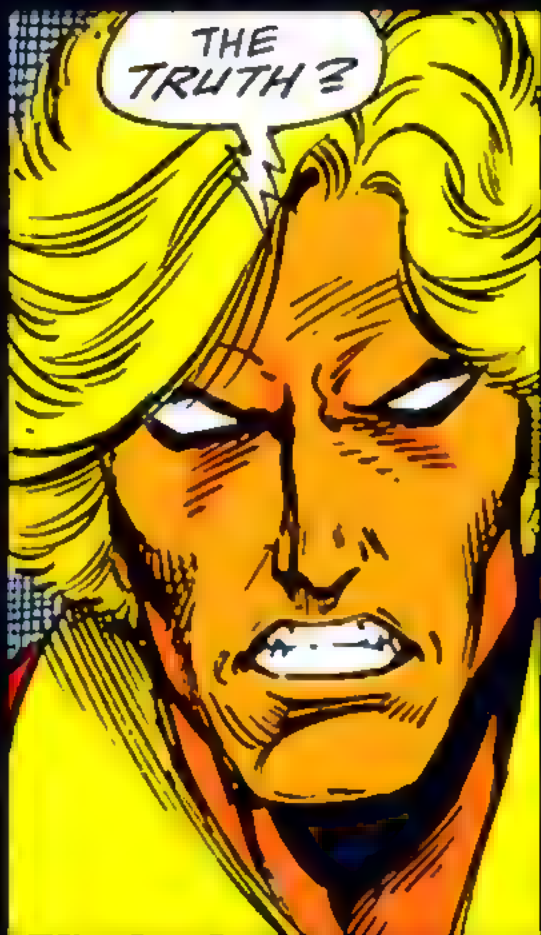




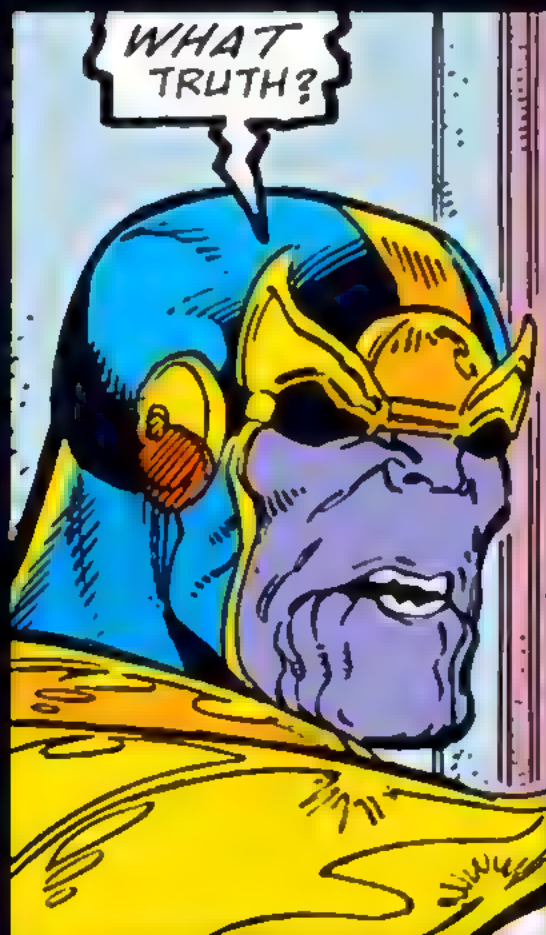
YOU KNOW  
WE NEED  
YOUR  
HELP  
TO OVER-  
COME  
NEBULA.

AND WHAT IF  
I WITHHOLD  
THIS AID..?

WHAT BENEFIT  
DO I REAP FROM  
NEBULA'S  
DEFEAT?



THE  
TRUTH?



WHAT  
TRUTH?



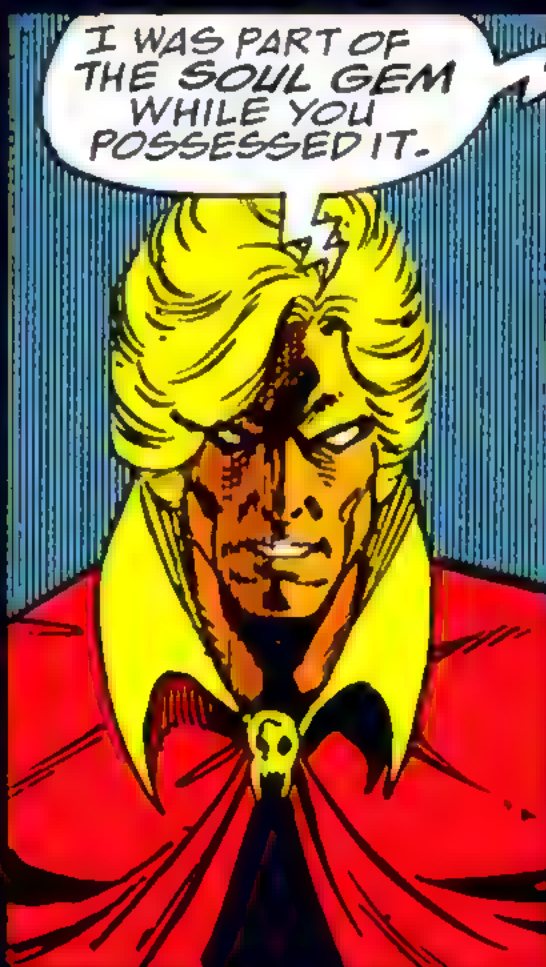
ABOUT  
YOUR-  
SELF.



YOU HAVE SOME  
SPECIAL INSIGHT  
INTO THIS MATTER?



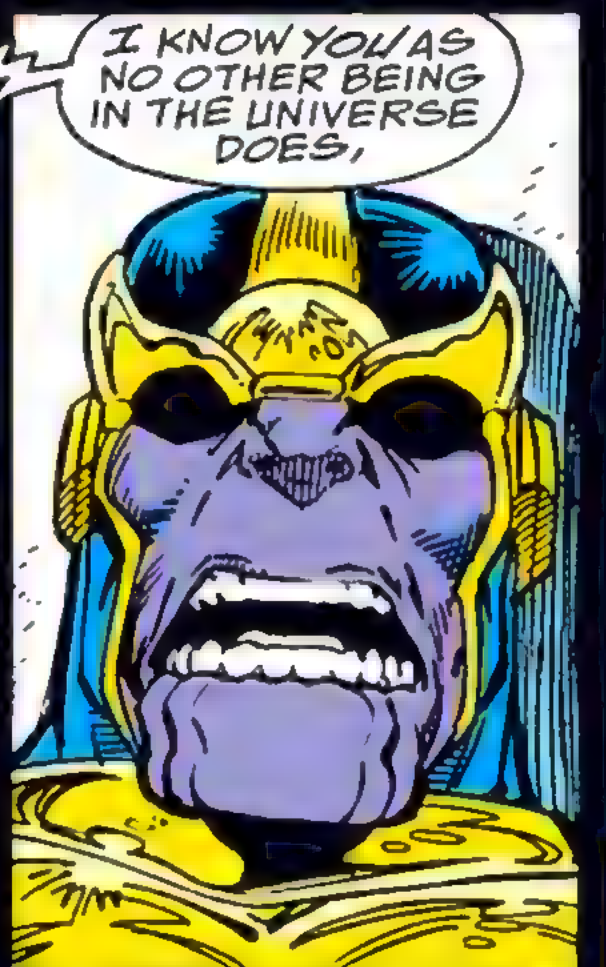
YES,



I WAS PART OF  
THE SOUL GEM  
WHILE YOU  
POSSESSED IT.



WHICH PERMITTED  
ME ACCESS TO  
YOUR INNER  
HEART.

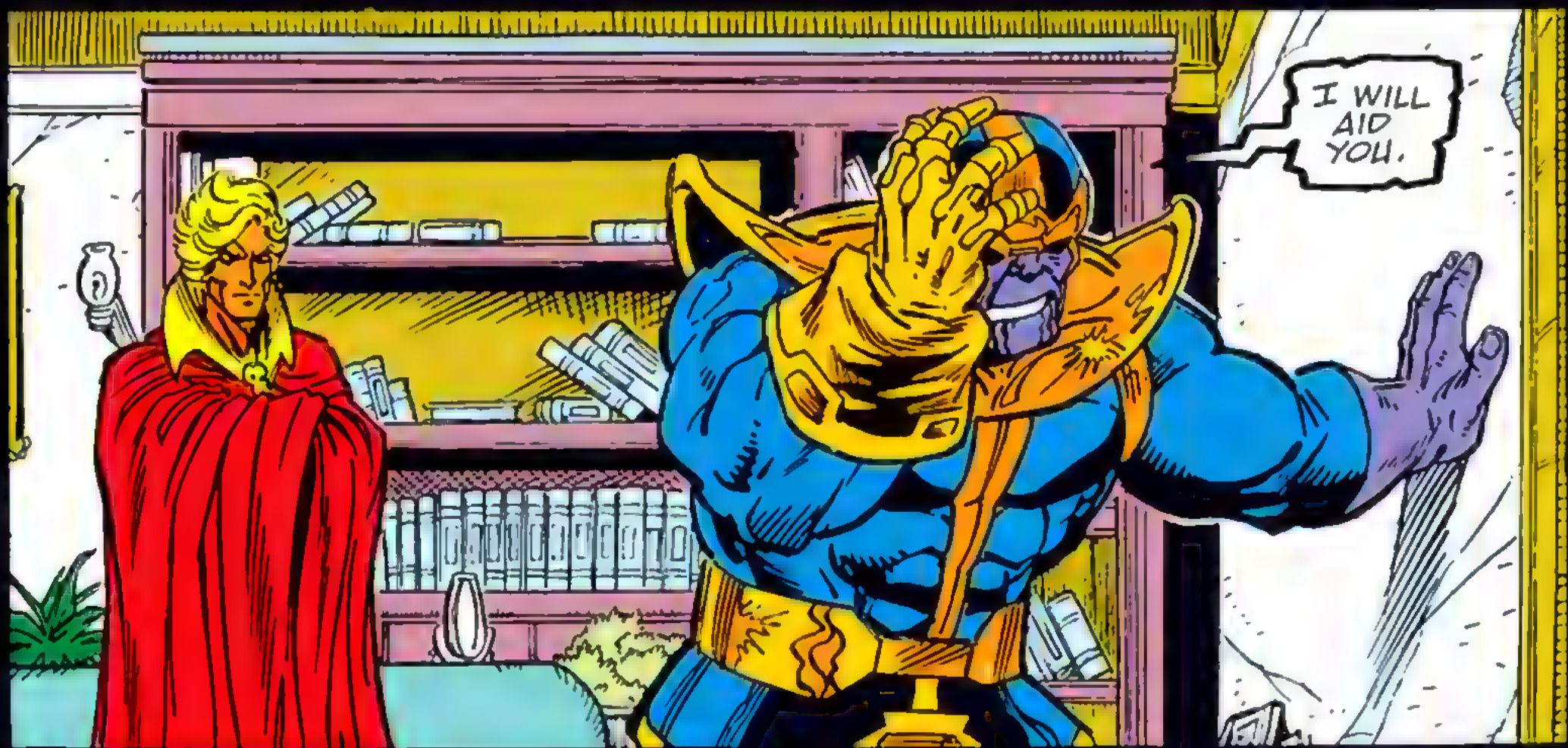
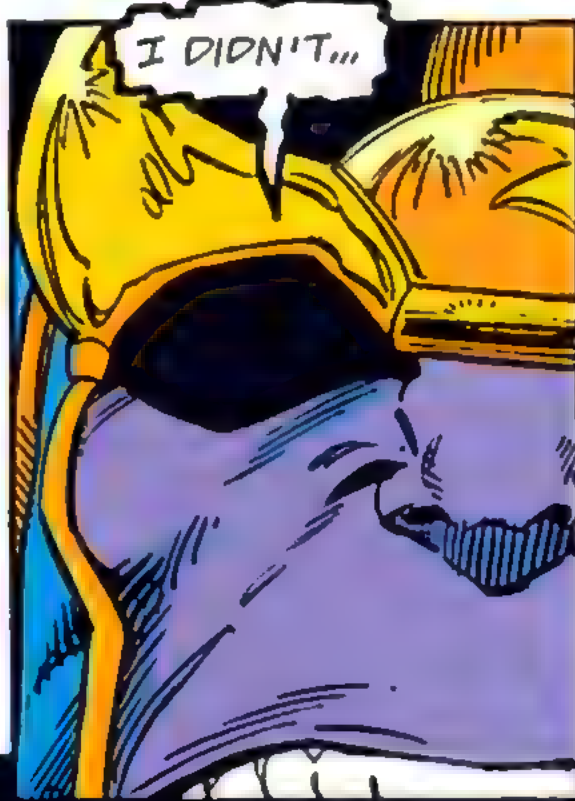
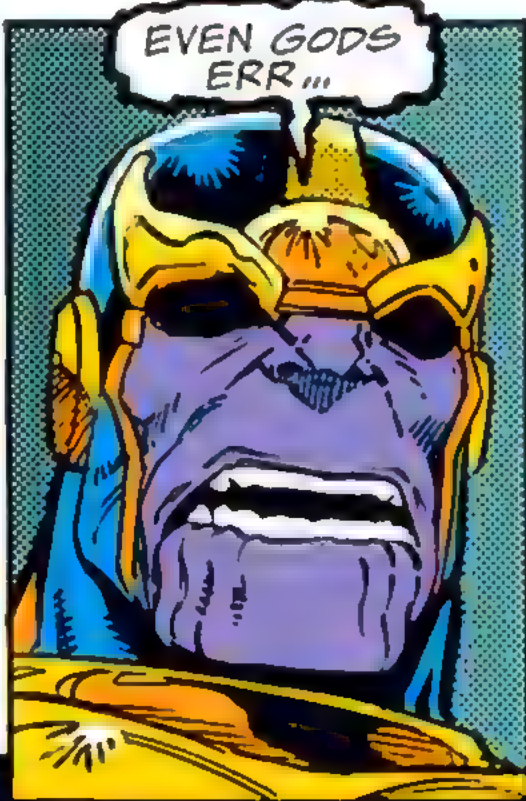
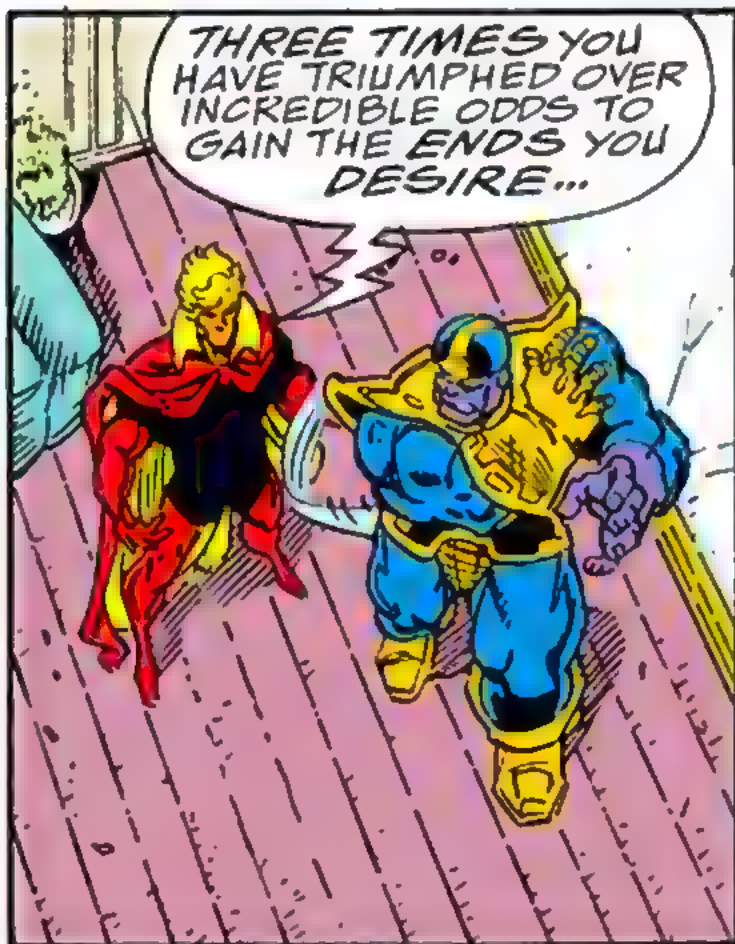
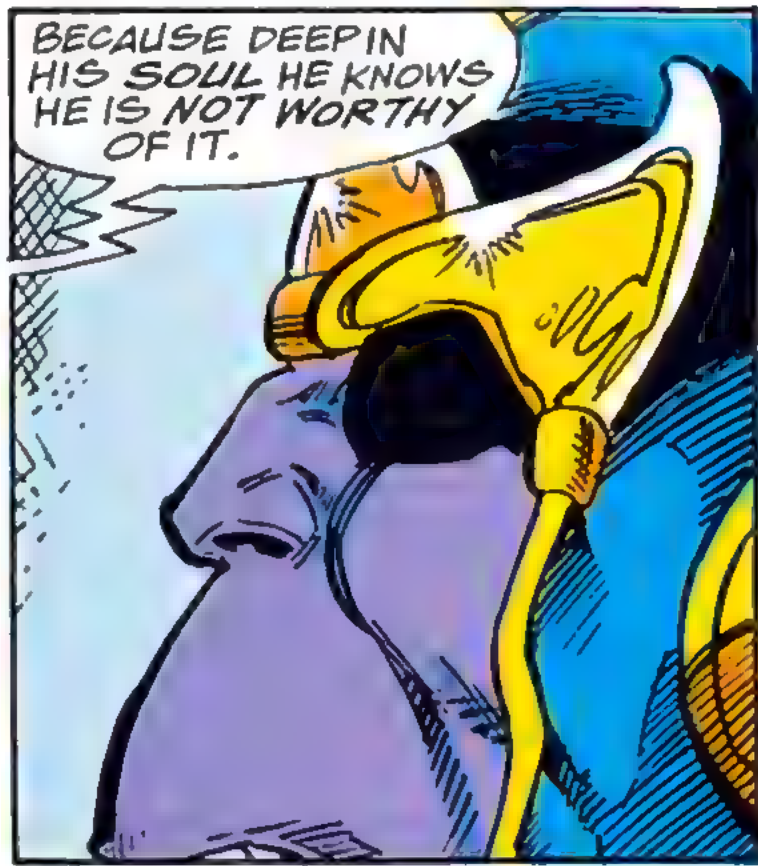
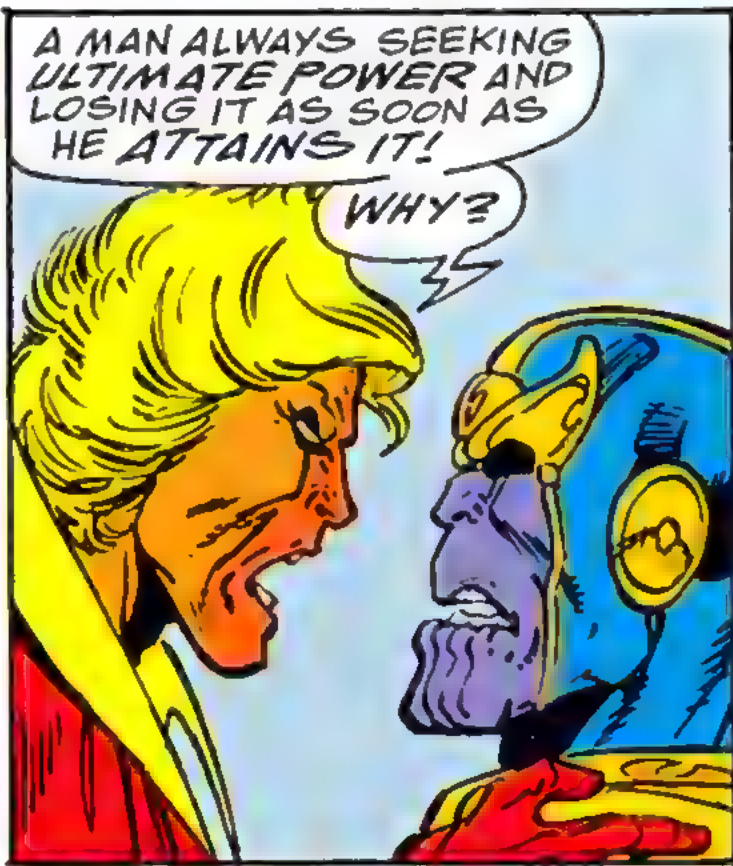
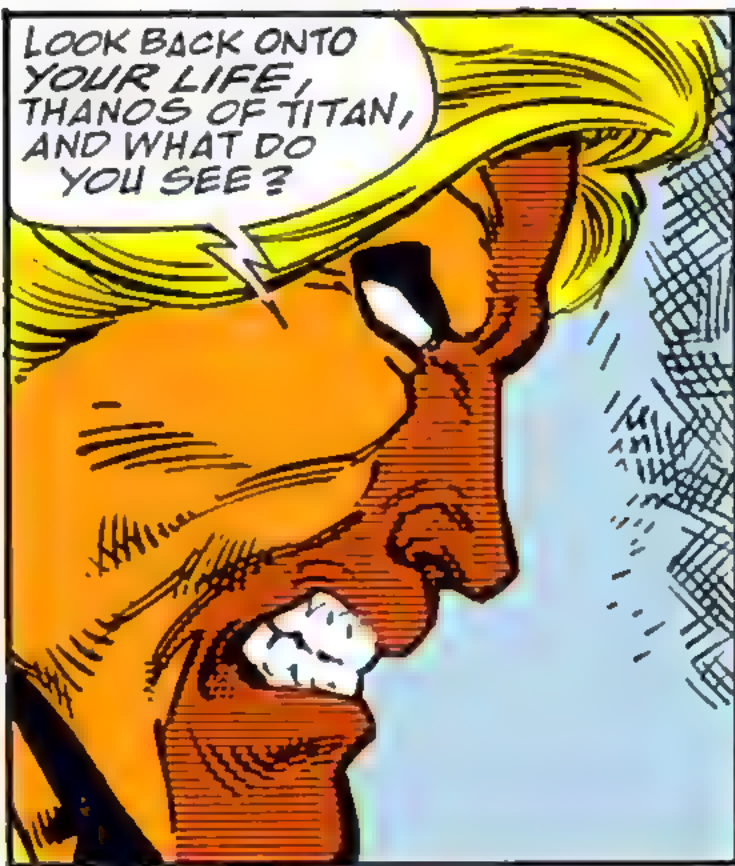


I KNOW YOU AS  
NO OTHER BEING  
IN THE UNIVERSE  
DOES,



BETTER THAN  
EVEN YOU DO  
YOURSELF!









BUT AFTERWARDS...

NO PROMISES.



NONE EXPECTED,

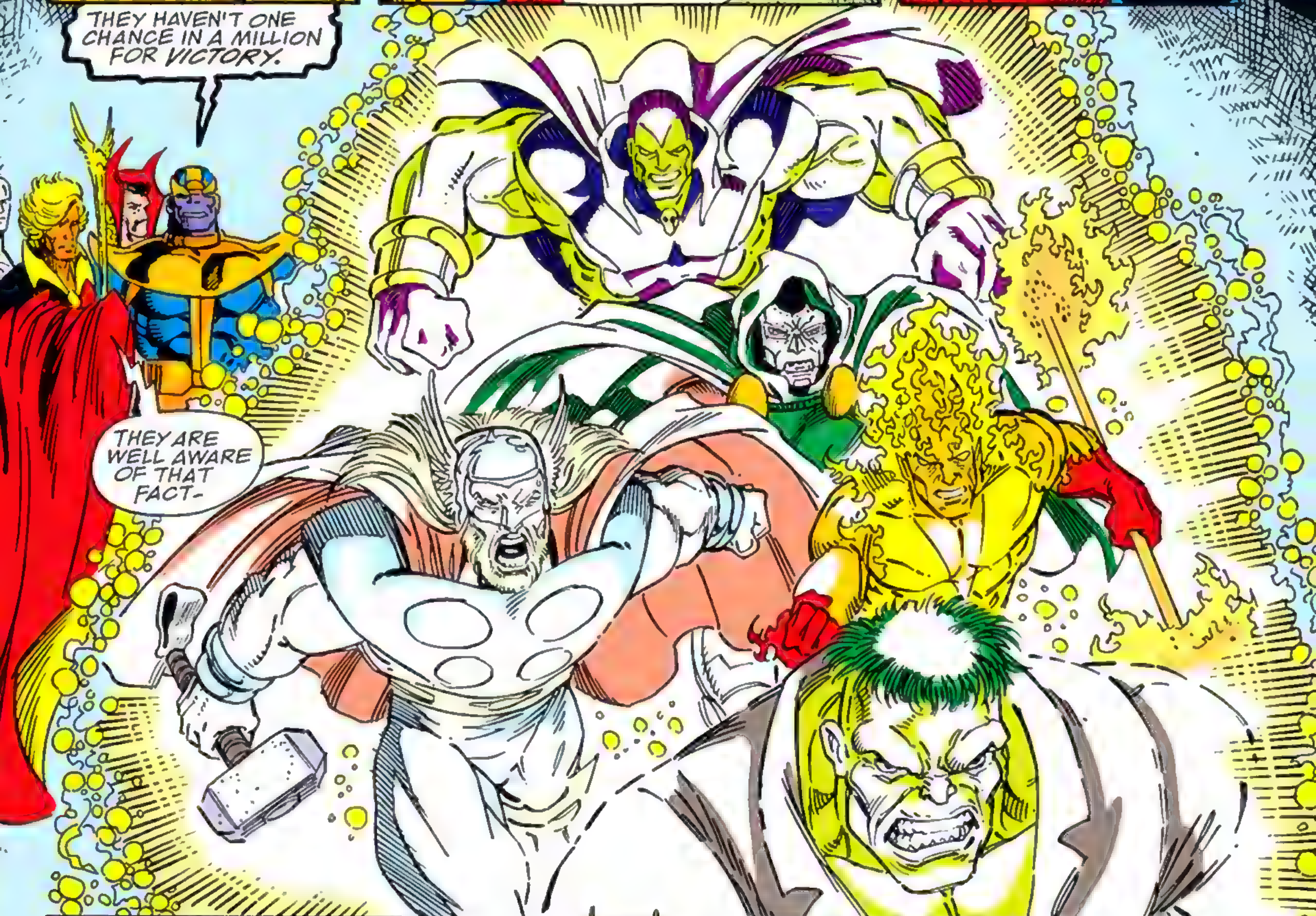
STRANGE, IS ALL IN READINESS?

EVERYONE'S SET TO GO!



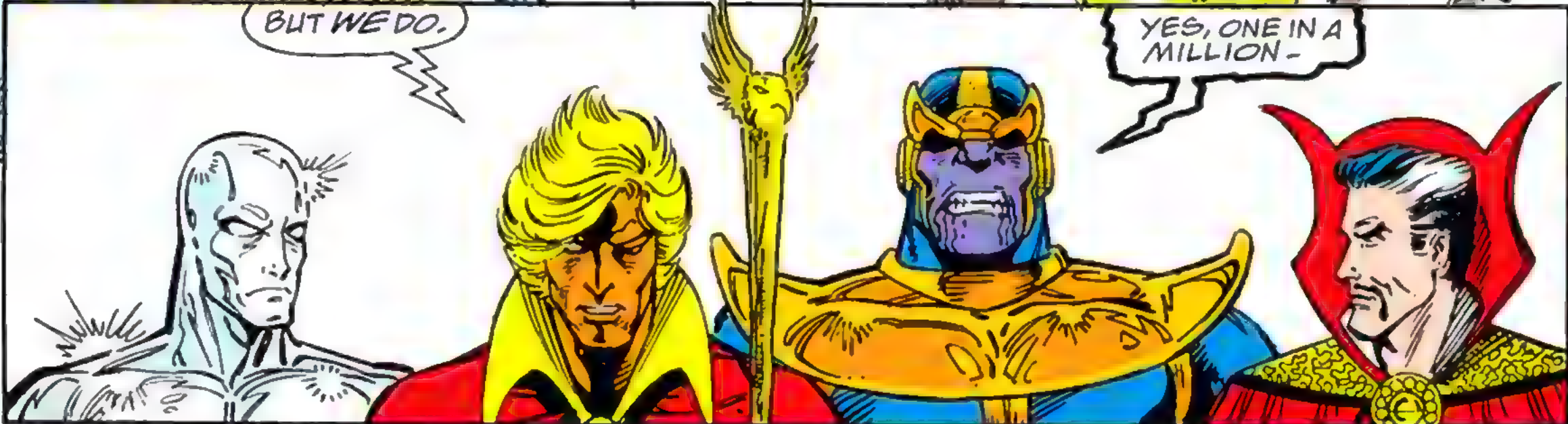
FIGHT WELL, ASGARDIAN-

WE SHALL GIVE IT OUR ALL.



THEY HAVEN'T ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION FOR VICTORY.

THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT-



BUT WE DO.

YES, ONE IN A MILLION-





ALREADY  
THE MIST  
BEGINS TO  
PART.

THE  
FUTURE  
CLEARS  
FOR ME.

AND SO DOES  
MY DESTINY.

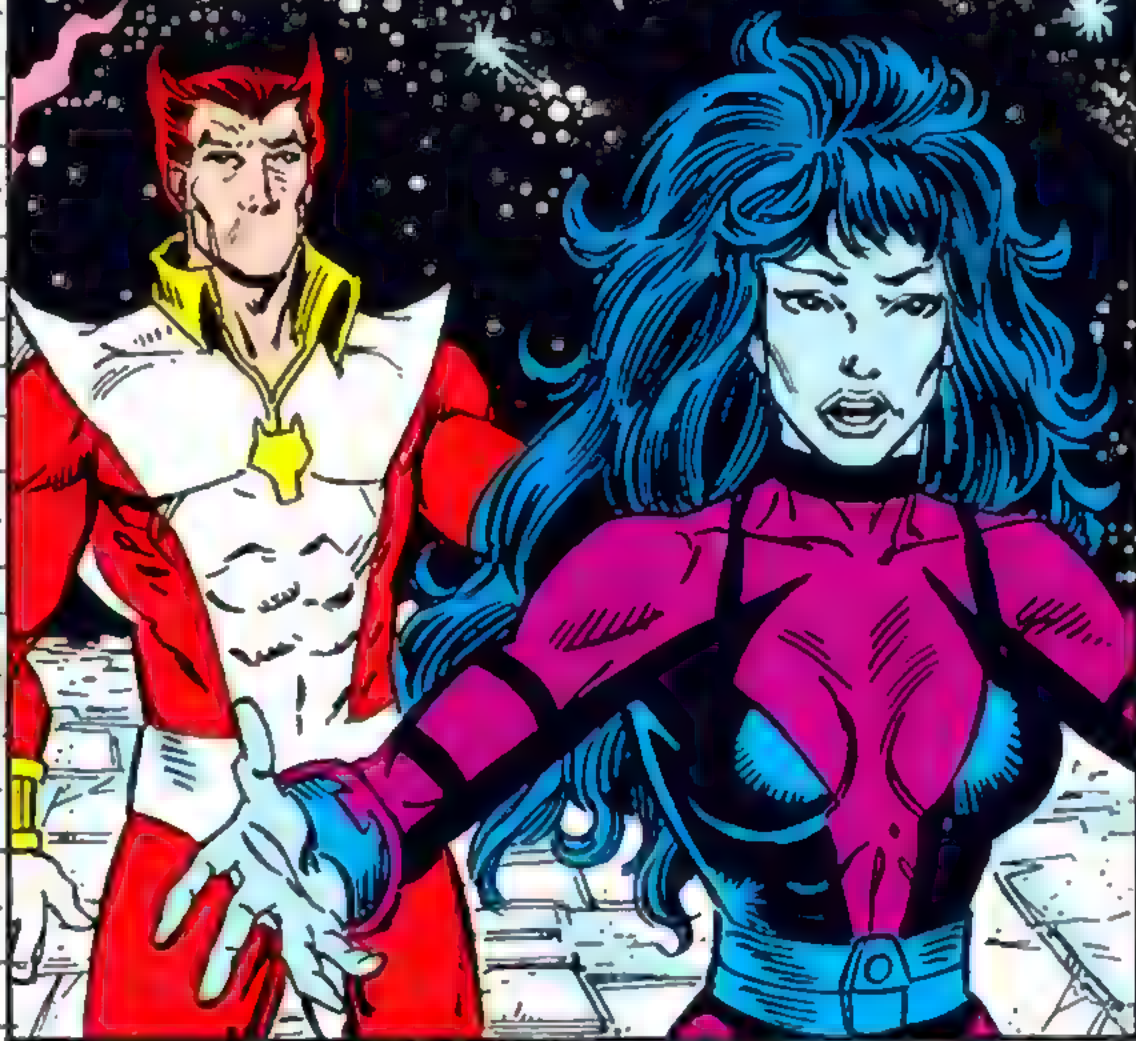
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND  
THANOS'S HUNGER FOR  
THIS INFINITE MIGHT.

TOMORROW IS  
MINE TO SCULPT  
TO MY FANCY.

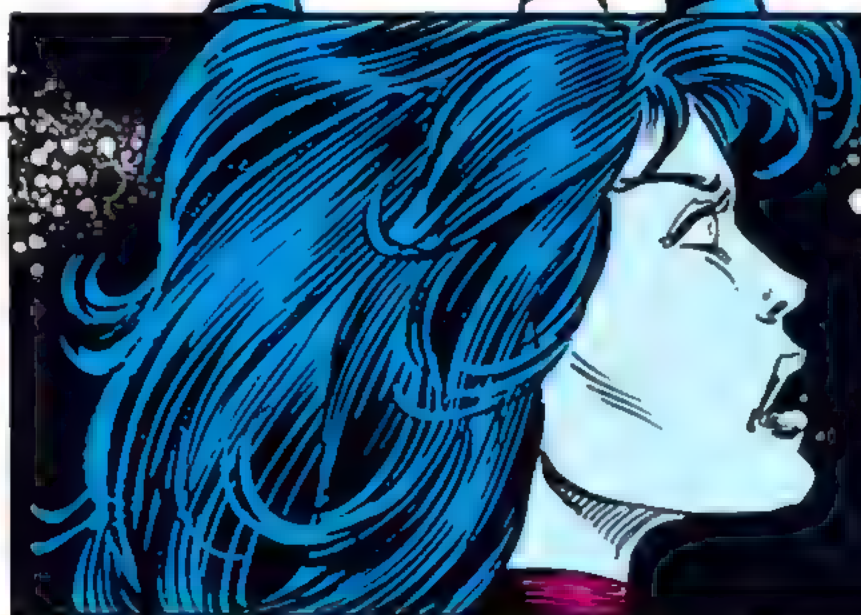
THE  
UNIVERSE  
IS CLAY  
WAITING TO  
BE MOLDED.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE  
VICTIMIZED OR  
SURPRISED; FOR I  
HAVE SEEN MY EVERY  
WAKING MOMENT  
STRETCHING OFF  
INTO FOREVER!

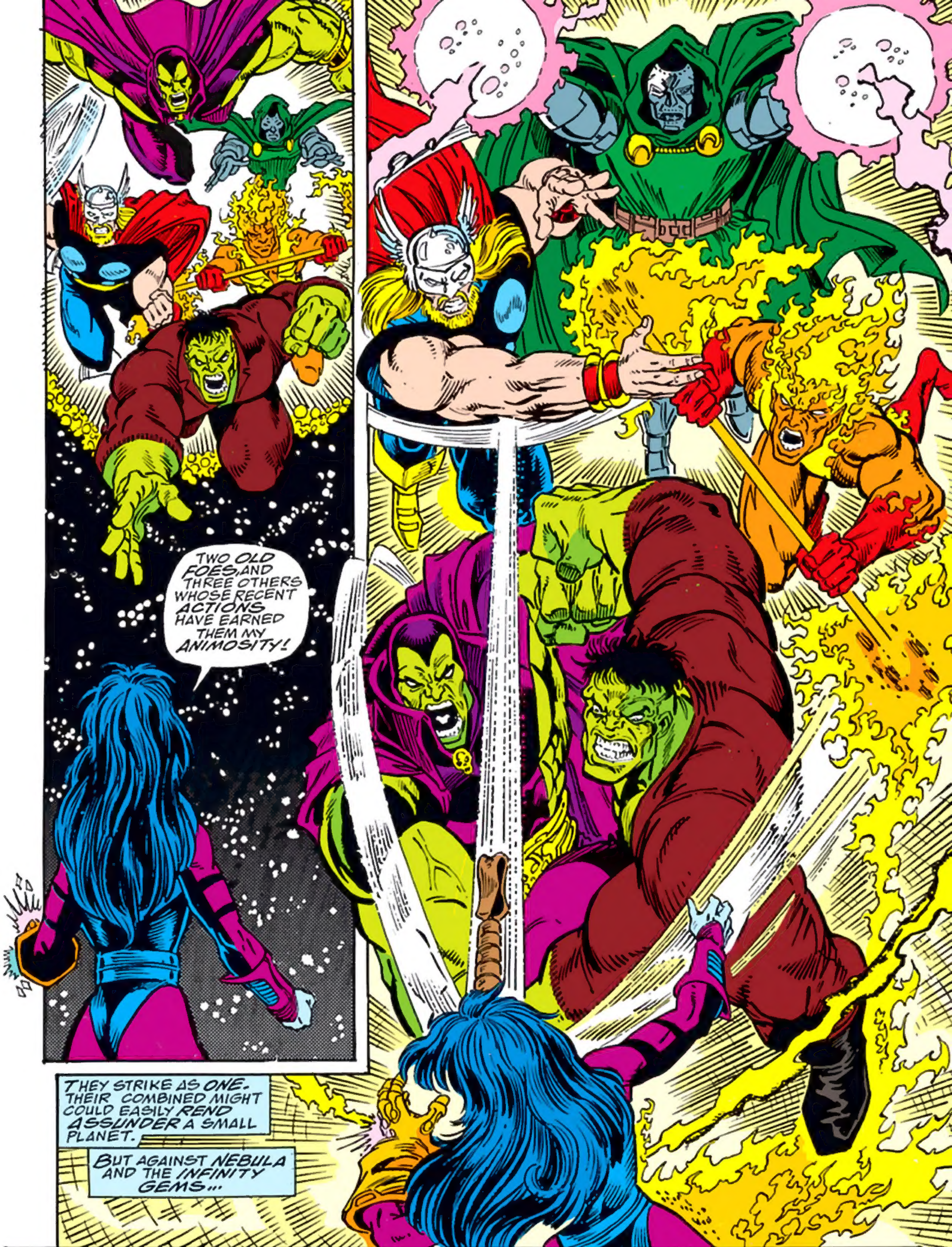
IN FACT, A MOST  
SATISFYING INSTANT  
IS ALMOST UPON US.



IN EXACTLY  
FIVE SECONDS  
FROM NOW I WILL  
BE RECEIVING  
VISITORS.







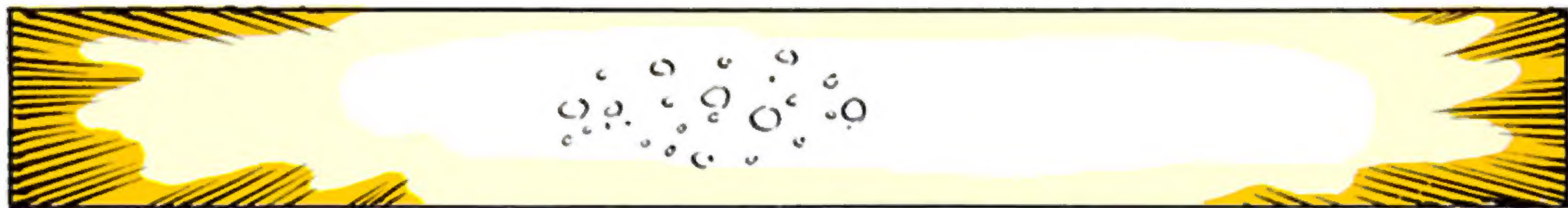
TWO OLD  
FOES, AND  
THREE OTHERS  
WHOSE RECENT  
ACTIONS  
HAVE EARNED  
THEM MY  
ANIMOSITY!

THEY STRIKE AS ONE.  
THEIR COMBINED MIGHT  
COULD EASILY REND  
ASSUNDER A SMALL  
PLANET.

BUT AGAINST NEBULA  
AND THE INFINITY  
GEMS...

...THEY ARE  
NOTHING.

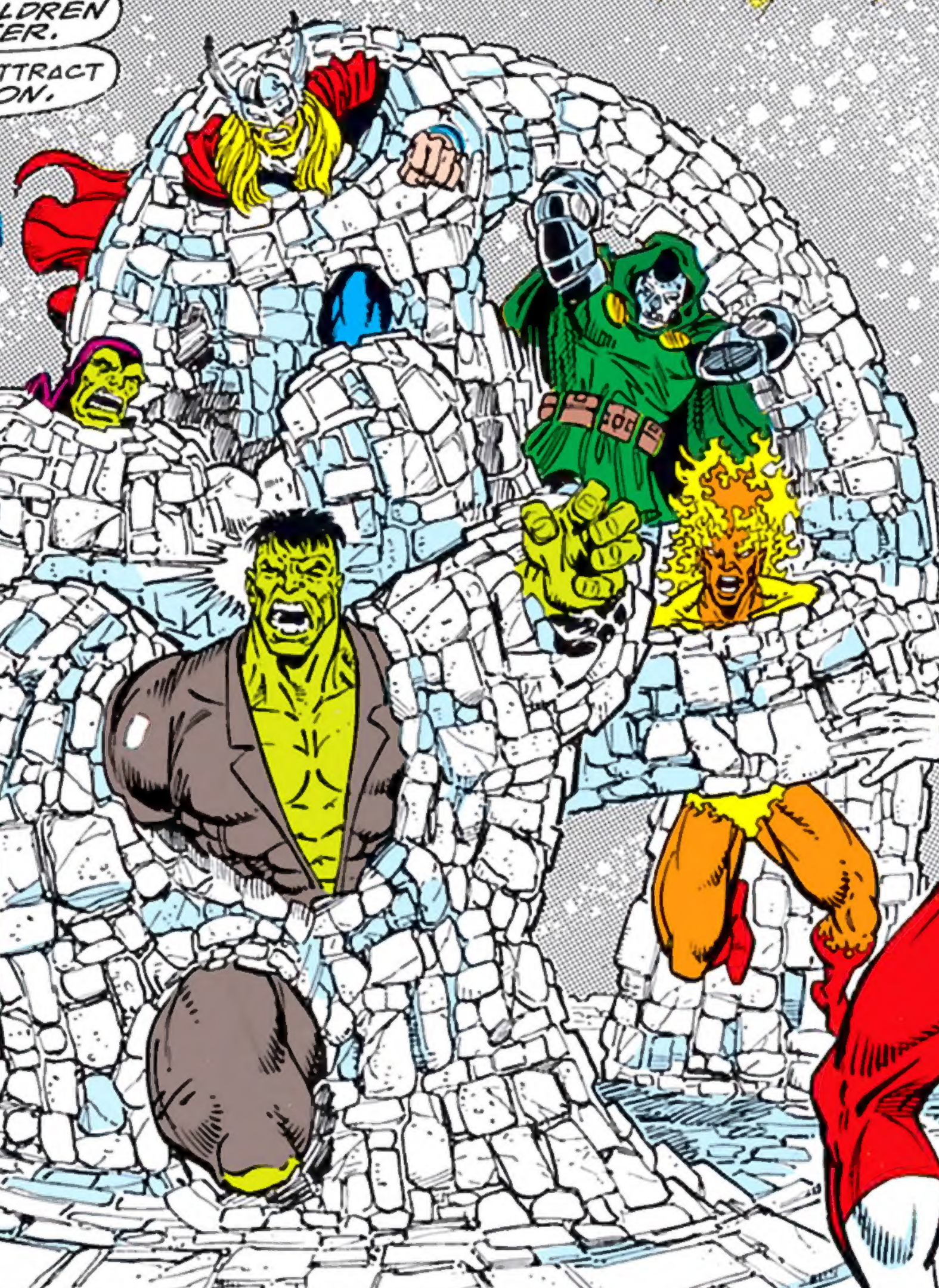
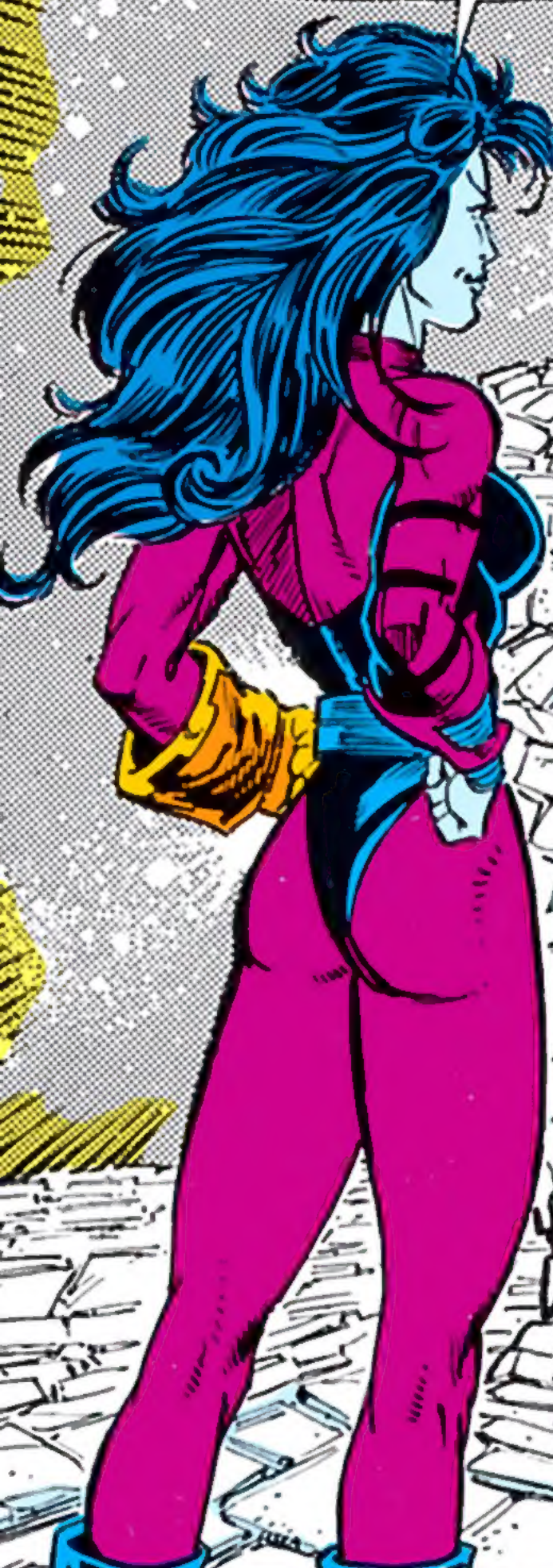




MERELY A MOMENTARY  
DIVERSION.

THEY ARE BUT CHILDREN  
SENT TO PESTER.

A MEANS TO ATTRACT  
MY ATTENTION.



THE ARCHITECTS OF THIS  
FRUITLESS ASSAULT ARE NOW  
NOTICED AND TRACKED  
DOWN BY MY COSMIC  
SENSES.

YOU'LL FIND THIS  
INTERESTING,  
EROS.



THERE ARE THREE  
WHO SEEK TO  
CHALLENGE MY  
MIGHT.

AND ONE  
OF THEM  
IS...





...YOUR  
BROTHER,  
THANOS!!

COME TO RECLAIM  
MY RIGHTFUL  
PROPERTY,  
WENCH.

WITH THE  
HELP OF YOUR  
TWO LITTLE  
FRIENDS?

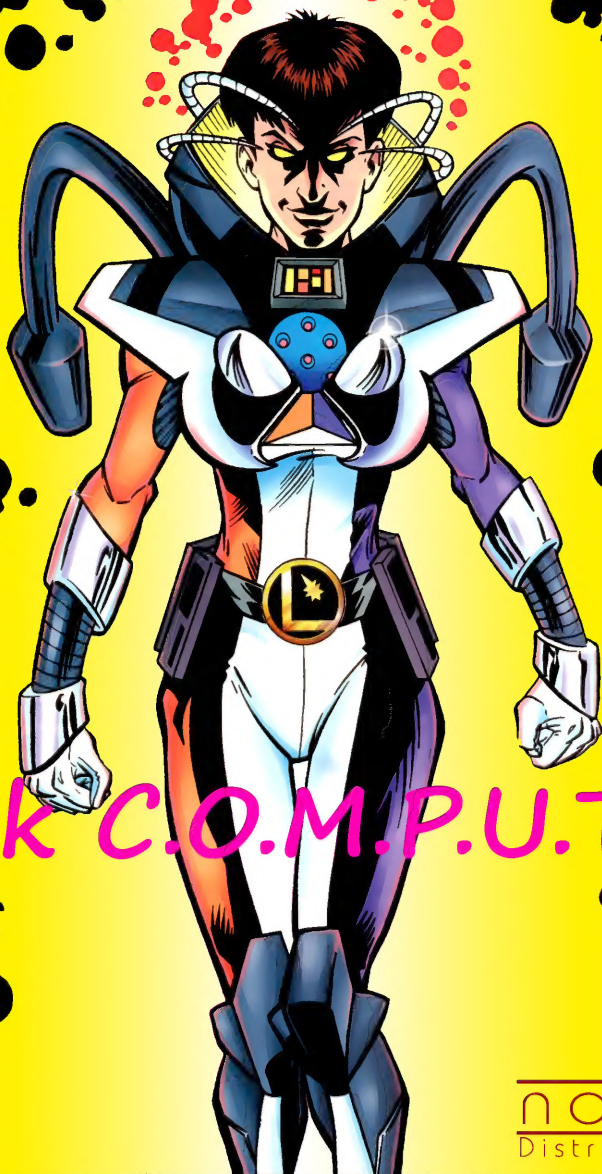
YOU DIS-  
APPOINT ME,  
THANOS!

I THOUGHT  
YOU'D MAKE  
YOUR LAST  
STAND ARMED  
WITH MORE  
THAN JUST  
EMPTY  
BRAVADO.

TWO  
LITTLE  
FRIENDS?..

THE  
NEXT  
**FINAL** CONFRONTATION





OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.

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